

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Bahrain appeals court Sunday rejected an appeal from three Shiite Muslims sentenced to death for the murder of seven Bangladeshis burned alive in a restaurant fire, the defendants' lawyers said. They will seek a reprieve to avoid being executed by firing squad, the lawyers told AFP here. The three were sentenced to death July 1 by the state security court. Four other defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of the Bangladeshis, who were burned to death March 14. An eighth defendant was sentenced to a 15-year prison term. On March 26, Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar, a 28-year-old Shiite, was executed by firing squad for the murder of a police sergeant in March 1995. His was the first execution in Bahrain since a violent anti-government campaign led by Shiites began in December 1994.

# Jordan Times

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## U.N. envoy visits Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A United Nations envoy arrived Sunday to study whether Sudan is making efforts to hand over suspects in an assassination attempt on Egypt's president or if it will face tighter U.N. sanctions next month. The official Sudan News Agency said U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, would meet senior government officials but gave no details.

## Mussavi refuses to run for Iranian presidency

TEHRAN (AFP) — A former Iranian prime minister on Sunday rejected growing calls to run for president in July elections, boosting the chances of Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri to replace President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Mir-Hossein Mussavi, who served as premier between 1982 to 1989, issued a statement saying he would "absolutely refuse" to run for president, Iran's official news agency IRNA said without giving more details. Mr. Mussavi, an Islamic left-winger, was under mounting pressure from Iranian radicals to challenge Mr. Nateq Nuri, who is close to Iran's paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and nominated by the ruling Shiite Muslim clergy (see page 2).

## FBI opens Israeli office

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has opened an office in Israel to help fight "Islamic terrorism," a spokesman for the Israeli Internal Security Ministry said Sunday. The FBI office, situated near the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, will also allow for closer cooperation between Israeli and American law enforcement authorities in fighting organized crime, the spokesman said. U.S. President Bill Clinton has pledged to step up the fight against militant groups accused of carrying out a series of deadly bombings.

## Lebanon seeks 2 after waste seized

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon has issued international arrest warrants for two people and has arrested two more in Lebanon as part of an enquiry sparked by the seizure of German toxic waste in Beirut. General Prosecutor Adnan Addoum issued the warrants for Mashhour Erakat, a naturalised German who lives in Germany and Alfred Baynoq, a Lebanese national who lives in Russia. Judicial officials said. Two Lebanese have been taken in for questioning. They were named as Mikhail Andraos and Jean Baynoq, the brother of Alfred.

## Thieves' fingers chopped off in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Two thieves who were repeat offenders had their fingers amputated in southwestern Iran under the country's new Islamic penal code, a newspaper reported Sunday. The amputations were carried out in the cities of Ahvaz and Shush in Khuzestan province. Jomhuri Islami daily said without giving a date. A third convicted thief is awaiting a verdict. The new law, aimed at halting a crime wave in the Islamic republic, was recently passed by the parliament and went into force on July 9. The previous version of Islamic law was experimental. The Islamic law, on which Iran bases its legislation, normally requires 27 conditions before an amputation is carried out. The candidate must be a recidivist thief and have stolen from the poor or sick.

# Ross seeks to seal Hebron deal, but Israeli demand for free access a major hurdle

Settlers open fire at Palestinians; Netanyahu clears way for selling more settlement homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — U.S. Middle East envoy, Dennis Ross, tried to seal an Israeli-Palestine deal on the West Bank town of Hebron on Sunday, saying a coming trip by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to Europe would hamper mediation efforts.

An Israeli official said the negotiations over a Hebron pullout have hitched over Israel's demand that its soldiers have free rein in Arab areas of the city to prevent anti-Jewish attacks. "It looks like most of the gaps and disagreements have been bridged and that (an agreement) is going to happen in the very near future," David Bar-Ilan, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told Israel Radio.

The main sticking point is the question of free access that Israel wants into the (Palestinian) area of Hebron after an Israeli partial withdrawal in the West Bank town, he said.

city and not wait for a action to, actually take place," he said.

Mr. Ross met Mr. Netanyahu on Sunday and Israel Radio said he would travel to the Gaza Strip for talks with Mr. Arafat. The envoy said Israelis and Palestinians still had differences to overcome.

Earlier on Sunday, Jewish settlers said Mr. Netanyahu's government had put up for sale 3,000 apartments completed years ago in West Bank settlements.

"It's clear that we have further narrowed the differences that exist but we have not overcome those differences," Mr. Ross told reporters after meeting Mr. Netanyahu in northern Israel.

Mr. Ross, who Israel Radio earlier reported had been seeking a Netanyahu-Arafat summit for Sunday to close the final differences over Hebron, levelled criticism at Mr. Arafat for taking the European trip.

"Clearly the pace of negotiations is affected when the leaders are not here. Also my own presence is affected when the leaders aren't

## King contacts Arafat and Israeli premier

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday contacted Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The king's office said the contacts were part of a mission to bring about a peace agreement between the two sides. The king's office said the king had spoken to Mr. Arafat by telephone and to Mr. Netanyahu in person. The king's office said the king had also spoken to U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The king's office said the king had also spoken to Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Minister of Defence Abdul Karim Kabariti. The king's office said the king had also spoken to Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Al-Rifa'i. The king's office said the king had also spoken to Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Ali Al-Sayid. The king's office said the king had also spoken to Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Ali Al-Sayid. The king's office said the king had also spoken to Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Ali Al-Sayid.

here because part of my mission is very clearly to go back and forth between the leaders," Mr. Ross said. Mr. Arafat was due to leave Gaza on Monday on a European tour of several days. An Israeli official had said the two sides were on the verge of an agreement which could be concluded at an Israeli-Palestinian summit on Sunday. But Palestinians said they were

still far apart. Asked if Mr. Netanyahu would meet Mr. Arafat on Sunday, Mr. Bar-Ilan said: "It may happen." But Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdainah said no arrangements had been made for a summit with Mr. Netanyahu. "There are deep differences between the two positions. The same dispute

(Continued on page 7)

## King meets Peay, senior British officer

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received the head of the U.S. Central Command, Lieutenant General Binford Peay, in the presence of Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdul Karim Kabariti. Discussions during the meeting covered bilateral ties between Jordan and the U.S., especially in defence and military fields as well as joint training programmes.



His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday meets Lieutenant-General Binford Peay, head of the U.S. Central Command (Petra photo)

The King also received the Middle East adviser to the British chief-of-staff, Minister Kabariti and Hew Pike, and discussed with him bilateral ties in defence and military fields and means of cooperation in joint training. Prime Minister Kabariti and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh attended the audience.

## Kabariti holds talks with Husseini, reaffirms support for Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Sunday reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people in their negotiations with Israel and efforts to reconstruct Palestinian institutions and establish an independent Palestinian state on their soil. Speaking during a meeting in his office with Faisal Husseini, who is in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Mr. Kabariti called for concerted efforts to salvage the peace process and to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. Mr. Husseini briefed Mr.

Kabariti on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The meeting was held in the framework of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and consultations in all fields. Highly praising Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Mr. Husseini said after the meeting that the two sides maintain a very strong relationship which is needed for both sides to deal with the new political developments. He said the disputes between the Israeli and the Palestinian negotiators over the Hebron question rose because Israel refuses to implement the agreements

it has signed with the Palestinians. "Israel is dutybound to implement the agreements which include ample provisions for ensuring Israel's security needs and we are ready to reach agreement on details that can guarantee these needs," Mr. Husseini added. He said Israel wants to introduce changes to the agreements so as to include clauses connected with security but "we are rejecting this demand because a change in the original agreement on Hebron could serve as a precedent for changing all the agree-

(Continued on page 7)

## EU to name special envoy to Mideast

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Union (EU) will seek ways to secure a bigger political role in the Middle East peace process Monday, even though Israel and the United States have already balked at the thought. The 15 foreign ministers, frustrated that the EU's financial clout in the region hasn't translated into political clout, were expected to appoint a special envoy to the Mideast at their monthly meeting, officials said.

First and foremost, however, they will have to question whether there is a common will to allow the EU take the diplomatic lead instead of individual governments.

French President Jacques Chirac had a highly visible diplomatic tour of the Mideast last week, pressing the French viewpoint. The visit overshadowed the EU's initiative early this month, when Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring was sent there by the 15 EU government leaders (see related story on page 12).

"What we need is the capacity to work together, with common positions," said EU commission Vice-President Leon Brittan. He urged individual EU nations "to refrain from independent action."

Britain wants a more comprehensive EU Middle East policy blueprint before sending such a special envoy into the area.

"We mustn't just appoint a special representative and then try and work out what he's going to do, that would be the wrong way around," said British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

vision and that of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Both seek to have a European representation in addition to the U.S. mediation at the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating table.

The peace process and a larger EU role will also take centre stage when Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa meets his 15 EU counterparts later Monday. Israel has long seen the EU nations as too pro-Arab and fears a larger EU role in the negotiating process would undermine the Israeli position.

Earlier this month, Mr. Arafat praised the EU leaders saying "the Europeans support the Palestinian demands completely."

And Mr. Chirac has done little to change that impression. The French leader called for a Palestinian state and criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling on him to give up Arab territory and to respect previous peace accords.

The United States also is not eager to complicate the delicate Mideast balance. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has written to EU leaders with the request not to expand their political role in the peace process.

The EU is seeking a bigger role because it feels frustrated that its massive economic assistance to the region has in no way been matched by political clout.

Ireland's Spring, who will chair Monday's meeting, said it was "the EU's intention to make an enhanced commitment to the search for progress in the Middle East commensurate with the union's economic con-

(Continued on page 7)

## Peres says Assad had agreed to meet him

SHARM AL-SHEIKH, Egypt (Agencies) — Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres said on Sunday that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wanted to achieve peace in 1996 and that Mr. Assad had agreed to meet Mr. Peres to discuss it.

"President Assad sent me a message through the Americans saying that he would like to conclude peace in 1996," Mr. Peres told reporters after holding talks on the prospects for Middle East peace with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"I said I'm ready. I have one condition. That is to promote the level of negotiation. You cannot negotiate on a low level where every once in a fortnight people are meeting and polishing a sentence. It will take generations."

"So I told President Assad (a former air force pilot) what do you want. Fly high and fast or low and slow. If you want to fly high and fast okay, let's have a meeting, if you want to have it in 1996."

"I got a reply saying 'yes I am ready to meet you, but I can't give a date...'" the former Israeli prime minister said.

Labour Party leader Peres lost to right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in elections in May in the Jewish state.

Nearly five years of sporadic peace talks between Israel and Syria have long stalled over the strategic Golan Heights.

Damascus demands a full Israeli withdrawal. Israel's previous government was ready to make at least a partial withdrawal for full peace and normal

ties with Syria.

Mr. Netanyahu rejects trading occupied Arab land for peace.

Mr. Peres also said Sunday that Israel's present government was starting to realise that its hard-line ideology would not achieve peace with the Palestinians.

Mr. Peres said the legacy of peace accords left by his Labour Party was forcing Mr. Netanyahu to continue in negotiations with Palestinians.

"Peace is not dead, and I don't believe anybody can kill it," Mr. Peres said. "It can be postponed, it can encounter some difficulties, but I am sure this is the real future."

Mr. Peres said he discussed the peace process with Mr. Mubarak but gave no details of their nearly two-hour meeting. Mr. Mubarak later spoke to Israeli reporters, urging peace and saying no more money should be spent on Mideast wars. But he also offered no details of the session with Mr. Peres.

The two men, partners in the peace process when Mr. Peres was in office, had not met since April when Mr. Peres took part in a summit of world leaders on terrorism in this Red Sea resort.

At the time Israel was hit with a series of bombings that killed more than 60 people and played a role in Mr. Peres' electoral defeat in May.

Mr. Netanyahu promised in his election campaign to achieve peace with security, but Mr. Peres said Sunday that the approach of Likud Party leaders amounted to offering the

(Continued on page 7)

## KDP likes to delay peace talks

ERBIL (AFP) — The Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) would like to delay peace negotiations with a rival faction until after the U.S. elections when "circumstances are ripe," a KDP official said Sunday.

"There is an agreement in principle to lead a new round of negotiations in Ankara under American, British, and Turkish supervision but the exact date has not yet been fixed," KDP official Fadel Mirani said.

"It might be useful to delay this meeting for two weeks, if the concerned parties agree," he added.

He said his party had not officially requested a delay but it would be preferable "so that the circumstances are ripe and the ceasefire consolidated."

A U.S.-brokered ceasefire went into effect on Thursday, with some violations reported.

Mr. Mirani said the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential elections were "one of the factors" making a delay in the negotiations desirable.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, who negotiated the ceasefire between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said Saturday that the negotiations would be held in Ankara next week.

(Continued on page 7)

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## Tehran sceptical over U.S. call for dialogue

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran met with scepticism on Sunday a proposal from the United States for a dialogue to resolve outstanding problems, saying the offer did not sit well with Washington's hostile policies toward Tehran.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Vaezi said Thursday's offer by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert Pelletreau "does not tally with America's present hostile policies and acts" against the Islamic republic.

"If the Americans take the realities of the (Gulf) region into account, they will realise that a revision" is needed in their foreign policies, he said, quoted by newspapers.

The U.S. official said the United States has always been willing to enter into negotiations with Iran to repair ties that have been strained since the ouster of the pro-American Shah in the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"There is no change in our policy. It is an aspect of the U.S. policy that we are willing to enter an authorised dialogue with the government of Iran," he told reporters during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He said issues included Iran's support to terrorism, its opposition to the Middle East peace process, its subversion of some friendly states, its desire to acquire weapons of mass destruction and its aggressive attitudes.

Iran has rebuffed repeated U.S. offers to enter into a dialogue, accusing the Americans of seeking to dominate the region.

Washington broke diplomatic ties with Tehran in 1980 after radical students seized the U.S. embassy here and its staff in Protestant U.S. support for the Shah.

In June 1995, the United States imposed a unilateral economic embargo against Iran and tightened it in August by seeking to

punish non-U.S. firms making investing more than 40 million dollars a year in Iran's oil and gas industry.

Quoting an unnamed official, the hardline Iranian daily, Jomhuri Islami, said Sunday that Washington's offer of dialogue "will again not receive a positive response" from Iran.

"Washington has lost its credibility and if it likes it can continue its hostile policies and witness its growing isolation," the official said.

Iran has praised the international community, mainly Europe, for refusing to join U.S. economic sanctions against Iran, saying it had led to U.S. "isolation."

The Iran news, which is close to the government, said relations could be improved if U.S. President Bill Clinton removed the "pro-Zionist advisers" from his team.

It singled out Secretary of State Warren Christopher, whose removal the paper said could "pave the way for reduced hostilities in U.S. foreign policy" towards Iran.

Iran uncompromising stand towards Israel has been at the centre of much of the tension with the United States.

Mr. Pelletreau on Saturday reiterated that Washington would like to hold talks with Iran on bilateral differences, including Tehran's "support to terrorism".

The dialogue should focus on "real differences between the two countries such as Tehran's support to terrorism, its opposition to the Middle East peace process and its desire to acquire weapons of mass destruction," the UAE's Khaleej Times quoted assistant secretary of state Mr. Pelletreau as saying.

"We would also like to discuss with the government of Iran its intervention in the affairs of other Gulf states," he said.

Mr. Pelletreau met Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed on Saturday for talks on bilateral ties.



Deminers cover mines, rockets and bombs before destroying them outside Kabul as part of the demining programme of the Afghan Technical Consultant (ATC) on Saturday. Hours later bombers struck at Kabul airport in the first night time raids in memory. The aid group has destroyed about 50,000 bombs and mines since 1995, all collected in and around Kabul (Reuters photo)

## One-month Islamic Taleban reign draws mixed feelings from Kabulis

KABUL (R) — For many Afghans in Kabul, it has been a difficult month under the rule of the purist Islamic Taleban, but not for everyone.

The twin issues of women — barred from most work and education under the Taleban's strict interpretation of Islam's sharia law — and security, the best in recent memory, reach deep into daily life.

"It is not a simple question of gauging the popularity of the Taleban, who emerged from the morass of factional fighting to sweep much of the country under their control and free Kabul of fighters people said had preyed on them far too long.

On the surface, many remain relatively happy with the Taleban, who captured the city without a fight on Sept. 27. There is no longer corruption, robbery and extortion that made life so difficult for so many.

There are also those who have benefited from the Taleban's Islamic code. Sales of Burqas — the all-embracing cloak with a mesh over the eyes that all women must wear in public — have blossomed.

"For me, life has never been better," said Mohammed Aslam, who dyes Burqas for a living. He

said their price had risen about 70 per cent to 550,000 afghanis (\$35), beyond the means of most.

Women have suffered in many ways, although more are now appearing in public and some have even gone back to work. But for those who depend on them for a living, the picture is far from rosy.

Ghulam Sarwar, who runs a cosmetic store next door to three beautician shops which have remain shut for the past month, says business is terrible.

"Some women sneak in to buy something to wear at home, but otherwise it's hopeless," he said. "People are also afraid about the future, so they're not spending anything."

Across the street, 38-year-old Ezmaray's women's shoe business is hurting badly.

"Before, women would buy shoes like this to go to the office, but now they stay at home," he said. Before the Taleban arrived, he sold up to 300 pairs a month. So far this month, he has sold 10.

Other businesses have also suffered from Taleban edicts. A ban on music and television has hit vendors such as Najib, 14, who sells music tapes from a stall in central Kabul.

Soon after the takeover,

some Taleban warned him gently to remove the tapes or they would be destroyed. Najib said he sold them to areas in the north controlled by the more liberal Uzbek chief Abdul Rashid Dostum, and bought in Taleban material.

This consists, he said, of chants extolling the virtues of the Taleban and their heroic commanders, most of it recorded in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan. Sales have plummeted from 20 tapes a day to five at most, he said.

"Very few people are buying this stuff and all of them are Taleban," he said. Najib said he will give up the business and go home to his village when he has shifted his stock.

A few hundred metres (yards) away, between the stalls of vendors which spill out to the street, shopkeeper Mohammad Nasir, 26, is more sanguine, his electrical shop was hit by the Taleban takeover, but he is keeping an open mind.

"I figured they didn't like televisions and video, so I've put them away, but power has been so irregular I wasn't selling a lot anyway," he said.

Few are willing to be drawn on whether they want the Taleban gone.

But shoe-seller Ezmaray, attaching Pakistani-made

soles to Thai-made uppers and putting the results in boxes marked "made in Britain", is dismissive of the Taleban policies.

"Anyone can bring peace to this city. But I call on the Taleban to allow women to go out of their homes. This city is full of widows whose households have no breadwinners. They should be allowed to work," he said.

Others are critical of the continuing war, blaming all factions for failing to down their weapons and the United Nations for what they say is its failure to impose a solution.

"These people are fighting over our city. It is our city. We can run it, police it and make it work ourselves. If the U.N. would disarm the factions, we could easily reach peace," said a judge who has not worked since the takeover.

An engineer, who worked on the city's tram service until it was destroyed in fighting a few years ago, agreed.

"These people have taken Islam too far, beyond what we think is meaningful. I don't want to go so far as to believe there will be peace, but I don't think this kind of peace means anything," he said.

## UAE says 160,000 illegals have left

DUBAI (R) — More than 160,000 illegal workers have left the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ahead of a new law cracking down on unlawful foreign labour, the interior minister said on Sunday.

The minister, Lieutenant-General Mohammad Said Al Badi, told reporters after opening a seminar on security and the media that the crackdown aimed at "rectifying an imbalance in the population and targeted all nationalities, not a specific one."

"The number of violators who have left the country until now stands at over 160,000 from various nationalities," Mr. Badi said.

His remarks were carried by the official news agency WAM.

The UAE government, saying illegal aliens are a threat to the oil-producing country's security, has told them to leave or legalise their stay by the end of October. Diplomats say as many as 200,000 could leave by the deadline.

Thousands of foreign workers — primarily from the Indian subcontinent but also from South-East Asia — have been rushing to leave to avoid rough penalties when the new law takes effect on Nov. 1.

If they are caught after the deadline, they face punishment including fines, prison terms and deportation.

Foreigners make up about 75 per cent of the 2.4 million population in the UAE. Many came to the country legally, but broke the law by failing to leave when their visas expired or by working for employers other than their sponsors.

Saudi moves

Saudi Arabia's minister of labour told private companies to meet a Nov. 11 deadline to increase the number of nationals on their staff by five per cent or face sanctions. Saudi newspapers said on Sunday.

"All private sector firms should achieve at least this minimum target by Nov. 11," they quoted Mousaad Al Sinani as saying.

He added that a ministry committee will check and violators will be punished.

The move is in line with a 1995-2000 development plan, which set a target of creating 659,900 jobs for Saudis by the end of the century. Some 319,500 expatriate workers are to be gradually replaced by Saudi citizens.

About five million expatriates work in Saudi Arabia, which has a population of about 17 million. Fewer than seven per cent of private sector employees are Saudi, economists and bankers say.

## Nateq Nuri candidate for presidency

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's ruling conservative clergy has nominated parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri to replace President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani after the July elections, newspapers said Sunday.

The Association of Militant Clergy (AMC), a grouping of influential right-wing clergymen in Tehran, overwhelmingly selected Mr. Nateq Nuri as its candidate in a meeting on Wednesday, said the Akhbar daily, which is close to the president.

The main Shiite Muslim dignitaries in the holy city of Qom in central Iran also opted for the speaker after "intensive" discussions on Thursday, it added.

Mr. Rafsanjani will have served two consecutive four-year terms by July and is not allowed to seek a new mandate under the constitution.

The president's moderate supporters tried to lobby for a constitutional amendment to allow him to run again, but faced strong opposition from the conservatives. Mr. Rafsanjani himself has opposed revising the constitution.

The AMC and satellite conservative groups have launched an intense drive in the past weeks to convince the religious-political hierarchy in holy cities to back the nomination of Mr. Nateq

Nuri, who is close to Iran's paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Islamic left-wingers, at sharp political odds with the conservatives, have unleashed their own campaign in favour of former Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mussavi, who has yet to decide whether to run.

On Tuesday, left-wing students held a rally at the Tehran University campus in support of Mr. Mussavi, who held office between 1982 to 1989, but the former premier does not enjoy the backing of Ayatollah Khamenei or the conservative-majority parliament.

The rightists beat a coalition of moderates and left-wingers in the April legislative elections which were seen as a dress rehearsal for the presidential polls.

The Iranian press has raised the names of other possible candidates including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Vice-President Hassan Habibi and former intelligence chief Mohammad Mohammadi Reyskhani.

Women could be judges

Iranian authorities are considering allowing women to serve as judges for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, when they were banned from the profession.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi was quoted as saying Sunday.

"The possibility for women to become judges is currently under study," newspapers quoted him as saying.

Women were expelled from the courts after the revolution which imposed a tough interpretation of Islamic law. But amid calls for a greater social role for women, the Iranian parliament approved in 1994 a law allowing women to be legal advisers to the courts.

Islam does not explicitly forbid women from becoming judges prompting the clergy here to take opposing views on the issue. The orthodox ones argue that women are feeble in spirit and could buckle under the demands of the profession.

For the past two years, Iranian authorities, notably Ayatollah Khamenei, have been trying to convince the conservative clergy to agree to a greater role for women.

Iran's reformist clergy have been calling for a more modern interpretation of Islamic teaching to conform with the new realities.

A seminar was held here in September on the works of the late Ayatollah Moghaddas Ardebili, known for his historic fatwa (religious decree) authorising women to be judges.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION  
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### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 .....Muppet Show  
14:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
15:00 .....Varieties — L'Integrale  
15:30 .....Doc. — Travelling Gourmet  
16:00 .....Nature's Inventions  
16:30 .....Hey Dad  
17:00 .....News Flash  
7:01 .....Destiny Ridge  
8:00 Magazine — Dassiopfe  
9:00 .....Le Journal  
15 .....Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq  
10 .....News Headlines  
10 .....Rosanne  
20 .....Documentary  
20 .....Cinema, Cinema  
21:1 .....The Lazarus Man  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:25 .....Mini-Series — Final Justice  
23:15 .....Bodies of Evidence  
23:59 .....Dad's Army

### PRAER TIMES

04:26 .....Fajr  
05:44 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
11:19 .....Dhuhr  
14:26 .....Asr  
16:55 .....Maghreb  
18:13 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.  
Church of Nazarene Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the  
Department of Meteorology.  
Relative cold weather conditions  
will prevail with skies  
partly cloudy. There will be a  
chance for scattered showers in  
the northern and central parts  
of the Kingdom with winds  
westerly moderate. In Aqaba,  
winds will be northerly moderate  
and seas calm.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalid Tashq .....757253  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim .....830432  
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi .....893542  
Dr. Bahjat Bader .....832642  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yaacob pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr .....76882  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Nabhan .....995743  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman .....09/20  
Aqaba .....14/27  
Deserts .....08/21  
Jordan Valley .....15/28  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 18, Aqaba 25 Humidity  
readings: Amman 46 per  
cent, Aqaba 57 per cent.

### HOSPITAL

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre .....81381332  
Khalidi Maternity .....6442816  
Akileh Maternity .....6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police .....192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Dept. .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
J. Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Co. .....636381  
RJ Flight Information .....08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen  
Alia International Airport Tel.

(08)53200-3, where it should  
always be verified.  
Information on other flights  
are supplied on phone 08  
(52700)

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:55 .....Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
09:50 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 .....Beirut (RJ)  
15:45 .....Zagreb (RJ)  
16:20 .....Cairo (RJ)  
16:25 .....London (RJ)  
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:15 Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (add)  
(RJ)  
19:05 .....Bangkok (RJ)  
22:10 .....London (RJ)  
23:10 .....Larnaca (add) (RJ)  
22:20 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
02:59 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
03:40 .....Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
09:45 .....Khartoum (SD)  
12:40 .....Bahrain (GF)  
14:20 .....Athens, Beirut (Q7)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
21:00 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:40 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:45 .....Athens, Beirut (OA)

00:30 .....London (BA)  
01:20 Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)  
09:50 Marka Airport (from QAIA)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 .....Zagreb (RJ)  
09:50 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
11:00 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:15 .....London (RJ)  
12:15 .....Cairo (RJ)  
12:15 .....London (RJ)  
12:30 .....Frankfurt (RJ)  
19:00 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
20:15 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:00 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
22:50 .....Damascus (RJ)  
23:40 .....Abu Dhabi (RJ)

### Other Flights

07:35 .....Beirut, London (BA)  
07:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
10:20 .....Cairo (MS)  
11:00 .....Khartoum (SD)  
13:30 .....Bahrain (GF)  
15:15 .....Doha (Q7)  
15:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
22:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)  
02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 .....Beirut, Athens (OA)  
07:35 Damascus, London (BA)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN  
Dep. Amman .....8:00 am every Monday  
Arr. Damascus .....5:00 pm every Monday  
Dep. Damascus .....7:30 am every Sunday  
Arr. Amman .....5:00 pm every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....500/500  
Banana (mukhammar) .....420/420  
Banana (imported) .....850/650  
Cabbage .....100/60  
Carrot .....280/150  
Cauliflower .....270/180  
Cucumber (large) .....270/180  
Cucumber (small) .....320/180  
Eggplant .....220/130  
Garlic .....720/500  
Grapes .....450/420  
Guava .....600/400  
Lemon .....380/220  
Marrow (large) .....240/140  
Marrow (small) .....320/220  
Onion (green) .....300/180  
Onion (dry) .....130/80  
Olive .....500/400  
Pear .....650/420  
Pepper (hot) .....360/200  
Pepper (sweet) .....380/240  
Pomegranate .....360/250  
Potato .....340/200  
Spinach .....280/180  
String Bean .....520/320  
Tomato .....260/170

مكتبة ليل





HRH Princess Ghida Talal Sunday inaugurates the 1996 Bani Hamida fall exhibition entitled "Race the Trend" at the Citroen-Dirani Showroom in Shmeisani (Petra photo)

## Princess Ghida Talal opens Bani Hamida fall exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Princess Ghida Talal opened the 1996 Bani Hamida fall exhibition entitled "Race the Trend," organised by the Jordan Society for Development (JSD) at the Citroen-Dirani Showroom in Shmeisani.

According to a Royal Court statement, Princess Ghida, who is JSD's Honorary Vice-Chairperson, expressed pride in the pioneering efforts of the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project, which has been transferred from the U.S.-based Save the Children organisation to the care of JSD.

"Race the Trend" is one of Bani Hamida's most original exhibits, tracing the evolution of man from the "charcoal and fire" series of the "When Oceans Merge" collection and inspired by the Internet's mosaic of colours and

nations, the statement said. This fall, Bani Hamida introduced and revived the three-dimensional "Saha" technique, traditionally employed by the nomadic Bedouins of Jordan.

Two of Norway's leading art specialists on textiles, carpets and tapestries have designed rugs for this exhibition, the statement said. According to Bani Hamida Production Manager Salwa Sukhni, all weavings now incorporate Bani Hamida's distinctive logo, to counter the problem of "cheap Bani Hamida imitations."

According to the statement, the JSD was established last May and is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the "financial, cultural, health, social and environmental standard of living of community members through comprehensive development programmes."

Bani Hamida was founded in 1985 as part of a

national effort initiated by Queen Noor, JSD's Honorary Chairperson, to revive and promote Jordan's heritage, increase work opportunities for low-income families and enhance the status of women as wage earners and decision-makers in their communities.

By training women to generate income and placing them in managerial positions, the project has empowered a whole community of women, enabling them to continue the education of their children, and especially their daughters while raising standards of living.

The statement said that Princess Ghida was received by JSD Chairman Ja'far Toukan. Bani Hamida Project Manager Natasha Shawarib and Save the Children Deputy Director Mike Austin.

## Property damaged by sports riots will be studied, says Kabariti

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday announced that the government is determined to put a final end to rioting in sports facilities and ensure appropriate safety measures for sports events.

Speaking at a meeting held in the prime ministry and attended by several cabinet ministers and heads of pertinent organisations, Mr. Kabariti affirmed that the government will study all complaints raised by store-owners and other business people within the vicinity of the King Hussein Sports Stadium, Jabal Hussein and Abdul Nasser Plaza.

They will concentrate on property damage and ways of ensuring safety and protection for public and private institutions, he said.

The prime minister described those who participated in the disturbances, following a soccer match between the Faisali and Wihdat clubs, as a group of people harbouring hatred for the country. Mr. Kabariti also stated government appreciation of the police for their immediate controlling of the situation and



Abdul Karim Kabariti for arrangements now underway to ensure spectator safety and protection of the sports facilities.

tator safety and protection of the sports facilities.

The prime minister inspected the sports facilities. Public Transport Corporation buses and private and public property which had been damaged in the mêlée.

Supporters of the two teams battled with stones, bottles and wooden clubs after the match, which ended with Faisali winning 1-0.

Police dispersed around 30,000 people some of whom continued their activities outside the stadium, smashing shop and car windows.

Mr. Kabariti had voiced regret over the incident and blamed some "irresponsible" people who "lacked a sense of sportsmanship" as directly responsible for the riots.

Attending the meeting at the prime ministry were ministers of public works and housing, interior and youth as well as Public Security Department Director Nasouh Muhieddin.

The officials reviewed reports about the incident and approved of measures aimed to end further recurrences.

## Montreal Fund to offer \$500,000 to selected firms

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its quest to ensure environmental protection, the Montreal Fund has promised \$500,000 to four Jordanian firms to commence utilisation of ozone friendly substances in manufacturing processes and replace substances considered harmful to the ozone, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat.

Speaking upon his return to Amman from a meeting in Canada organised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Dr. Tubeishat explicated that one of the refrigerator manufacturing firms will get \$120,000 with the remainder portioned out to the other three.

He outlined the financial assistance as provided by the Montreal Fund, which was established in 1987 and developed by international donations to help developing countries find substitutes for ozone-harmful substances.

Chemical substances used to date in refrigeration and air conditioning have been found to be pernicious to the protective atmospheric layer and Jordan has been requesting aid to finance new procedures utilising safer substances.

Her Majesty Queen Noor delivered the keynote address at the Montreal IUCN meeting calling for closer international cooperation "to place environmental protection at the heart of new developments and construction projects whether undertaken by governmental or private parties."

Dr. Tubeishat confirmed that this year the Montreal Fund will send a team of experts to the Kingdom to aid in this environmental pursuit.

Founded in 1948, the IUCN has as its main purpose the acquiring and utilisation of ozone-friendly substances in manufacturing processes as well as influencing, encouraging and assisting other organisations to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and ensure that use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

## French company pledges 700,000 francs for marketing programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — The French Company for Insurance of Foreign Trade Sunday signed an agreement at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to finance Jordan's export programmes and help market Jordanian goods in Europe and abroad.

Signing for the French company was the board's chairman, François David along with CBJ President Ziyad Fariz and according to an official statement, the French company has pledged 700,000 French francs for this endeavour.

Dr. Fariz said in a statement at the signing ceremony that the agreement will benefit Jordanian exports in international markets as they will be guaranteed by the French company in conjunction with the Jordan Loan Guarantee Company (JLGC).

As the agreement has a long-term duration, Jordanian exporters will have a good opportunity for competing with other exporters in international markets as they are backed by guarantees which serve as a safety net, Dr. Fariz said.

Mr. David said that the same programme was instituted in France and that the French company currently covers 25 per cent of all French exports.

Stating that the French company has extended similar assistance to other



Central Bank of Jordan President Ziyad Fariz and French Company for Insurance of Foreign Trade Board Chairman François David Sunday sign a marketing aid agreement (Petra photo)

nations in their quest for export development. Mr. David opined that many opportunities exist in developing Jordanian exports in Middle Eastern and European Union markets.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajot said that the agreement was a fruit of French President Jacques Chirac's Jordanian visit and is directed to help the Kingdom's national economy through guaranteeing its exports.

Director General of the

JLGC Dr. Jamal Salah said that the agreement laid the groundwork for long-term cooperation between his company and the French firm, adding that there will be further agreements including a re-insurance agreement on Jordanian exports.

The agreement will enable the Jordanian company to benefit from facilities which the French firm provides on a global level and so obtain information about the various world

markets, Mr. Salah said. He said that the agreement is expected to take effect in 1997 and is directed toward improving conditions to encourage commercial banks to help finance Jordanian exports.

The JLGC was established in 1994, boasts a paid-up capital of JD10 million, and is governed by a board of directors who represent shareholders, including the CBJ and an additional 17 banks.

## Jordanian, Russian friendship societies sign protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — Friendship Societies in Russia and Jordan signed "a protocol on cooperation and friendship" and pledged to organise activities to further boost bilateral ties.

Heads of the two societies Akef Fayez from Jordan and Professor B. Yuri of Russia signed the agreement initiating a programme of visits by Jordanian and Russian delegations to promote cultural, social and scientific cooperation.

The protocol provides for organising conference workshops and other meetings, to invite scholars and experts to take part in scientific activities and to take measures to boost tourist artistic, trade and cultural exchanges between Russia and Jordan.

The protocol also calls for the development of existing cooperation in health

affairs and higher education.

Following the protocol's signing, Professor Yuri addressed a press conference lauding Jordanian efforts to promote health, tourist, educational and social development in the Kingdom.

He spoke shortly before his departure following a three-day visit to Jordan and stated that he had benefited from the visit during which he met with parliamentary speakers and heads of various organisations.

The professor stated his hope that the visit would open the way for wider avenues of cooperation as well as further exchanges of experiences and ideas.

Dr. Yuri also said that he held meetings with Jordanian specialists to discuss medical treatment of children suffering from birth-trauma injuries.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "Melo" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### ITALIAN FILM WEEK

\*Two films entitled "Per grazia ricevuta" (For Favours Received) and "Nemici d'infanzia" (Childhood Enemies) at the Royal Cultural Centre respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\* "New Archaeological Discoveries in Al Fedeh and Hayan Al Mashref in Mafrq Governorate" (in Arabic) by Abdul Qader Hossan at the Friends of Archaeology Centre (Tel. 696682).

### EXHIBITIONS

\* "Timeless Weaving and New Creations — Home Furnishings and Accessories" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Oct. 31.

\* Jordan Industries Expo at Amman International Auto Exhibit, Airport Road, until Nov. 1.

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Sa'id Had-

adin at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina, until Nov. 5.

\* Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project '96 fall exhibition "Race the Trend" at Citroen-Dirani Showroom, Shmeisani until Nov. 3.

\*Egyptian products exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, Marj Al Hamam, until Oct. 29.

\* Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St., until Oct. 30.

\*Exhibition of children's books at Haya Cultural Centre, until Oct. 29.

\*Exhibition entitled "Jerusalem Domes, Doors and Windows" comprising photos by Julia Reinhold and paintings by Riham Ghassib at the Gallery, the InterContinental Hotel, until Oct. 31.

\*Works by Mohammad Nasrallah at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying abstract (plastic) art by Nabil Shehadeh and works by contemporary Arab artists, until Nov. 13.

\*"Wadi Al Faynan Art Exhibition" — works by several artists inspired by Wadi Faynan at Balka Art Gallery, until Oct. 31.

\*Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at the French Cultural Centre, until Oct. 29.

## German academic discusses peace process with Toueimeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Lower House of Parliament's Arab and International Committee Fawzi Toueimeh Sunday met with head of the Federal German Academy Dr. Gunter Joetze regarding security affairs and for a review of the general situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Dr. Putze, who had visited the occupied territories, expressed regret over the Israeli recruitment of 200,000 workers from east Asia to take the place of Arab workers," Dr. Toueimeh said.

He also said that the two reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and Israeli illegal measures which obstruct it.

"Israeli practices as well as the closure of Arab territories in Palestine are endangering the situation and demonstrating that Israel has no desire to achieve peace with the Arabs," Dr. Joetze was quoted as saying at the meeting.



Fawzi Toueimeh

region as well as the principle of just peace and stability.

The minister also said that the two discussed the European Union's stand in regard to the peace process and said that the European role can complement that of the United States and provide additional assistance to the Palestinians.

The two sides also called for the end of the sanctions on Iraq which, he said, are causing so much suffering to the Iraqi people.

According to Dr. Toueimeh, the German guest expressed deep satisfaction with Jordanian-German relations.

## Delegation heads for Baghdad to discuss transport issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Jordanian experts will leave tomorrow for Baghdad to engage in discussions with the Iraqi government regarding the port of Aqaba as well as land transport between the port and Baghdad.

This delegation is led by Director General of the Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) Mohammad Dalabih who said Sunday that he expects the visit to yield positive results and further strengthen bilateral ties.

He stressed the importance of the visit in ensuring the transportation of both merchandise bound for Iraq and that arriving at the port of Aqaba as these discussions take place just before the partial lifting of sanctions on Iraq which allow the country to exchange oil for food and medicine.

The United Nations Security Council has ruled that Iraq may sell \$2 billion worth of oil over a six month period on a renewable basis as long as the proceeds are received in equitable amounts of food, medicine and other necessities.

The decision was made in the face of the sanctions' impacts on Iraqis, coming after country's invasion Kuwait in August 1990.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, P-Captain Dalabih affirmed that his delegation will hold meetings with Iraqi ministers of transport, trade and industry as well as representatives of economic institutions.

They will lay make a tour of maritime facilities.

The captain will be accompanied by representatives of Jordanian land and maritime transport sectors as well as those of the Iraqi Jordan Land Transport Company, the Arab Edge Maritime Company which operates ferry boats between Jordan and Egypt and private sector maritime transport representatives.

Previous to the sanctions on Iraq as well as during the war between Iran and Iraq, the Jordanian port served as the main stream for transportation of goods to Iraq.

مكتبة من الكتب



## Pakistani police clash with Islamists; 29 wounded

ISLAMABAD (R) — Police using teargas fought running battles with Islamic militants trying to stage a demonstration outside Pakistan's parliament Sunday and at least 29 people were reported hurt.

The opposition Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) party, more skilled at organising street protests than winning votes, had planned to bring a million supporters to Islamabad for a sit-in protest against alleged corruption under Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's rule.

The government, which had offered an alternative venue for the demonstration, mobilised thousands of police and paramilitary troops to seal off Islamabad and foil JI plans.

Witnesses said a few hundred JI activists hiding in the Aabpara market area had emerged suddenly on a main road that leads to parliament on the city's constitution avenue.

The demonstrators hurled stones at police, who responded with canisters spewing clouds of teargas. The JI activists picked up some of the canisters and threw them back.

The official news agency APP said at least five youngsters had been hurt in

the violence.

Staff of the private Edhi ambulance service said they had taken about 20 casualties, mainly teargas victims, to hospital after clashes in the nearby city of Rawalpindi.

APP said earlier that three policemen and a driver had been wounded when Islamic activists trying to reach Islamabad had fired at a police checkpoint near the town of Saray Alamgir, about 100 kilometres south-east of the capital.

Up to 10,000 chanting JI supporters, led by their Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad riding in an open truck, were halted at a police cordon on the outskirts of Rawalpindi, witnesses said. "Revolution, revolution, Islamic revolution," shouted the crowd, some of them wearing headbands with Islamic slogans and carrying Korans. "My wish, your wish, martyrdom, martyrdom."

Police beating their riot shields emerged from behind containers and trucks blocking the road. They used teargas and charge the demonstrators with batons, driving them back.

White teargas billowed over the road as ambulances ferried injured protesters to

hospital. At least one policeman was hurt.

In the Punjab provincial capital Lahore, JI militants on motorcycles threw firecrackers and stones at three police stations. Police fired in the air to deter them, witnesses said.

There were no casualties, but police made at least six arrests.

Security forces backed by armoured troop carriers and water cannons blocked Islamabad's access roads overnight with heavy containers, barbed wire and sandbagged posts.

On Saturday the JI leader denounced Ms. Bhutto's government for attributing violent intentions to his followers. He said JI had never been lawless and urged his supporters to show restraint. The government would be responsible for any "brutal use of force against peaceful protesters," he said in a statement.

Cellular telephone services went dead Saturday night, apparently cut off to disrupt JI communications.

Paramilitary troops with truck-mounted machine-guns guarded parliament, as well as the prime minister's secretariat, the president's palace, the Foreign Ministry and the diplomatic

enclave.

The authorities diverted or cancelled 24 passenger trains Saturday, re-routing inter-city services to avoid Rawalpindi.

All Islamabad schools and universities stayed closed Sunday and attendance at government offices was very thin.

JI leaders said the security forces had rounded up more than 5,500 of its supporters to try to disrupt the protest. An interior ministry spokesman said the JI figure was exaggerated, but could not say how many people had been seized.

Three people were killed and 60 wounded when gunfire broke out during a JI demonstration in Rawalpindi in June.

Some newspaper commentators accused JI, which won only three seats in parliament at the last election in 1993, of courting more bloodshed by going ahead with its protest.

"Qazi (Hussain Ahmad) is aware of the dangers and by persisting with his sit-in plans is deliberately provoking a confrontation that will produce nothing but dead bodies," said a commentator in the English-language daily The News.



A masked activist of the religious Jamaat-i-Islami party places a handkerchief on the head of an injured protester after a clash with Pakistani police in Rawalpindi Sunday. At least 29 demonstrators and policemen were injured in clashes as security forces tried to prevent Islamic militants from marching on parliament in the nearby capital Islamabad to protest against alleged government corruption (Reuters photo)

## 75,000 protest government cuts in Toronto

TORONTO (R) — At least 75,000 demonstrators marched through the streets of Toronto and converged on the Ontario legislature Saturday to protest deep budget cuts by the province's Conservative government.

Estimates of the size of the demonstration varied widely.

Toronto police first put the number of people participating at 40,000, based on a count conducted by helicopter, but later raised the figure to 75,000, the Canadian press news agency reported. Organisers said the turnout was far higher, approaching 300,000.

Organised by major labour unions, the demonstration followed mass picketing Friday that shut the transit system in Canada's largest city and disrupted businesses, government offices and factories. Transit service was back to normal Saturday.

Labour leaders and social activists urged the government of Conservative Ontario Premier Mike Harris to retreat from its budget-cutting policies. "Quit throwing people out of work if your agenda is about creating jobs," Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers Union, said.

Linda Torney, co-chairman of the protest, said provincewide labour unrest might follow if the government did not heed the demonstrators' message. "Mike Harris, we are on to you. We have seen your Ontario, and we reject it completely," she said to loud applause.

Organisers said the discrepancy between their crowd figure and the police figure reflected a government attempt to dismiss the protest. "Don't let them play down the significance of this event," Ms. Torney told the rally. "There's got to be at least 300,000 of us out there today."

The march stopped in front of the downtown convention centre where the provincial Conservative Party, with the premier in attendance, was holding its annual convention.

The crowd chanted: "Hey, Mike, hey, Harris, we'll shut you down like Paris," referring to a general strike in the French capital last week that closed government offices and schools, grounded flights and

hampered rail travel. Mr. Harris later called on the demonstrators to put forward concrete proposals. "We understand those who may disagree," he told reporters. "We're saying to them that you must do more than that. You must give us positive suggestions."

About 50 supporters of the government's policies gathered briefly at the start of the march. They waved signs but dispersed as the demonstration got under way.

The protest was largely peaceful, but about 15 anti-government demonstrators threw rocks at the convention centre. Police and parade marshals quickly quelled the outburst, and no damage was reported. One person was arrested and charged with breach of the peace, Canadian press said.

The demonstration drew factory workers, teachers, firefighters, civil servants, nurses and other citizens from around the province, many arriving by chartered bus. Police closed off downtown streets for about two hours as the marchers went from a park near the shores of Lake Ontario to Queen's Park, site of the legislature.

The protesters waved placards and chanted slogans. The mood was almost festive as clowns, acrobats, folk dancers and drummers joined the throng. Entertainers, including Canadian folk singer Bruce Cockburn, performed at the rally. "I'm down here because I don't like what is going on in this province politically," Cockburn told Reuters.

The two "days of action" in Toronto followed similar, smaller protests in four other Ontario cities earlier this year. The demonstrators are outraged at Mr. Harris' plans to cut spending by 8 billion Canadian dollars (\$5.9 billion) to wipe out a big budget deficit by the turn of the century.

Dubbed "Newt of the north," a reference to Republican U.S. Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, Mr. Harris came to power in 1995, promising a right-wing revolution in Canada's most populous province.

His Conservative government has revamped labour laws, slashed welfare payments and required recipients to work. It has also announced plans to close hospitals and cut spending on education.

## Burma's Suu Kyi leaves home, holds meetings with NLD members

RANGOON (R) — Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has left her residence recently and has been holding meetings with senior members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, NLD sources said Sunday.

The sources said Ms. Suu Kyi, who last week was urged to stay in her compound to avoid meeting with student protesters, had attended a birthday party Saturday and also met with various party officials at her residence.

Last week a senior NLD official said Ms. Suu Kyi, who was released from six years of house arrest in July 1995, was being held a virtual prisoner in her house. A government official denied the accusation, but told Reuters Friday security officials from the government and the NLD had

urged the Nobel Peace laureate not to leave her house during student protests held last week.

Up to 1,000 university students held rare sit-in protests at an intersection about two kilometres from Ms. Suu Kyi's residence. They were protesting against the government's handling of a scuffle between students and restaurant owners.

The government accused the NLD of colluding with the students and trying to politicise the altercation to foment unrest.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) questioned Ms. Suu Kyi's close aide, Kyi Maung, Wednesday morning for his role in the protests. Mr. Kyi Maung, who has not yet been released, was seen talking to two of the student leaders

before the demonstrations. The NLD source said over the past week Ms. Suu Kyi had held meetings at her home, and the NLD officials who attended the meetings were brought there by government transport.

All roads leading to Ms. Suu Kyi's street have been blocked, and no vehicles or pedestrians are allowed to enter. But the government arranged last week to escort the NLD members Ms. Suu Kyi wanted to meet past the blockades to her house.

The barricades, which have been up for most of the past month in an effort to stop major meetings of democracy activists, were still in place Sunday.

"Ms. Suu Kyi has been unable to give her regular weekend speeches to supporters since late September when the barricades were first erected.

The last major accident to be reported was in April, when an Ilyushin IL-76 transport plane with 14 people aboard crashed in the remote far eastern Kamchatka peninsula.

## Ramos apologises for Mitterrand gaffe

NAMBAJAO, Philippines (R) — President Ramos publicly apologised Sunday for erroneously saying that former first lady Danielle Mitterrand was dead.

"I made a mistake and apologise to everybody who will apologise to me by way of a letter to Madame Mitterrand," reporters on southern Miguel Island, "I'm about it. We'll try to amend to Madame Mitterrand and the people of France."

In a gaffe, the Philippine president, who had referred to the very much alive wife of late French President Francois Mitterrand as "ready dead," said "We should we (than) the French first lady, Danielle Mitterrand, who died already," he said in southern Davao City.

"I should know. I wrote a letter of condolences to President Mitterrand," he said, apparently referring to condolences he sent Mrs. Mitterrand when her husband died of cancer in January.

Mr. Ramos was denying Manila press reports that the government had a list of 100 foreigners barred from the country during next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum summit.

Newspapers had said Mrs. Mitterrand was on the list. "Oops Ramos 'kills' wrong Mitterrand," a headline in the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper said Sunday. The Malaysia (Free) Daily said in its headline: "Danielle Mitterrand is alive and well, thank you."

Indian policemen urged to shape up

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Policewomen in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, where the Miss World Contest will be held next month, have been told to shape up for a new uniform, a press report said Sunday.

The Pioneer quoted Karnataka Police Chief A.P. Dorai as saying in the state capital Bangalore, the venue of the event, that overweight policewomen had been ordered to work out and shed excess fat. "In other states, women wear pants and shirts (instead of saris)," he said. "The new dress code will come into effect soon and the women will be asked to keep their figures intact."

"We will consider concessions for those above 45," he said. A senior police official justified the move saying "criminals did not take saris-clad policewomen seriously."

The proposal has drawn flak from within the ranks however. One head constable said she would resign rather than face taunts. "Even my husband will make fun of me in the new dress. I am sure my daughter will also not get marriage offers. I am prepared to quit my job rather than wear pants."

Bangladesh kicks off campaign against diarrhoea

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Sunday launched a public awareness campaign against diarrhoea, which health officials said kills 125,000 children in the country every year. Health authorities said the 18-month campaign would teach Bangladeshis proper use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) to combat the deadly dehydration caused by diarrhoea. ORT involves drinking water mixed with salt and sugar.

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf told reporters Saturday about 90 per cent of deaths from diarrhoea could be averted by using ORT. He said only 45 per cent of Bangladeshis used ORT properly. The Dutch government is providing \$5.5 million to fund the campaign, while UNICEF is offering technical assistance. Diarrhoea is a major health hazard in Bangladesh and many other developing countries.

## Hashimoto is likely to head minority government

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's hopes of forming a coalition dimmed Sunday and his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) looked increasingly likely to go it alone as a one-party minority government.

LDP leaders plan to hold a second round of talks Monday with their coalition partners in the current government, the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake Party.

But there were no signs the two junior parties, particularly the Social Democrats, would back off from policy positions opposed by the LDP and join a new coalition.

Failure to cobble together a new coalition would force Mr. Hashimoto to form a weak, short-lived minority government, analysts said.

Such a government was likely to perpetuate Japanese political instability because legislation — including key budget bills — could become bogged down by squabbling between parties. It would also be vulnerable to challenges by opposition parties including no-confidence motions in parliament.

In general elections on Oct. 20, Mr. Hashimoto's

LDP won 239 seats in parliament's powerful 500-member lower house, a dozen seats short of a majority. In the less-powerful 252-member upper house, the LDP holds only 109 seats, again short of a majority.

Mr. Hashimoto now needs the backing of the 15 lower house and 32 upper house seats held by the Social Democrats in order to push legislation through both houses.

On Saturday, the Social Democrats presented a stiff nine-point policy outline of their conditions for joining a new alliance.

The thorniest demand was for the LDP to agree to an immediate ban on political donations from businesses, a condition unlikely to be accepted by the pro-business LDP.

"We need political donations from corporations at least for the time being," Taku Yamazaki, head of the LDP's policy affairs council, argued on a television talk show Sunday.

Sakigake, with just two lower house seats, unveiled a platform of administrative reform calling for the establishment of a cabinet-level office to draw up the national budget — currently the

finance ministry's main task — and privatising government-funded special corporations.

Although Mr. Hashimoto left the door open for talks with most other political players, he appeared resigned to failure.

"It can't be helped. Regardless of whether we can secure their cooperation or not, we will do what we should," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters late Sunday.

If the LDP, which saw its 38-year grip on power broken in July 1993, failed to win over the two junior parties it would begin wooing the second-largest opposition group, the fledgling Democratic Party, party officials said.

The Democratic Party, a group of younger politicians who favour radical reforms and are led by Yukio Hatoyama and Health Minister Naoto Kan, has hinted it would not join a coalition.

"It is almost certain that the Democratic Party will not join the ruling camp," M. Kan said on television Sunday.

The government was expected to reconvene parliament on Nov. 7 to elect a new prime minister.

## Rybin leaves for Chechnya

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian National Security Chief Ivan Rybin left Moscow Sunday on his first visit to Chechnya since his appointment as chief representative in the breakaway republic. Interfax news agency reported.

Mr. Rybin, appointed last Saturday to head Russian negotiations in Chechnya, headed for Chechnya's neighbouring republic Ingushetia from where he will travel on to the Chechen capital Grozny, Interfax said.

Security Council officials said Mr. Rybin would hold talks in Chechnya with top Russian military commanders in the north Caucasus republic, and could also meet with Aslan Maskhadov, the rebel government leader and chief of staff of separatist forces.

Mr. Maskhadov agreed 10 days ago to head up a Chechen coalition government due to rule Chechnya until fresh presidential elections, which the separatists have slated for Jan. 27.

Mr. Rybin took over the tricky Chechen portfolio from his ousted predecessor as Security Chief, Alexander Lebed, who signed an accord with the separatists at the end of August.

His departure for Chechnya came as some 1,500 delegates to the national congress of Chechen people, a political assembly which was instrumental in Chechnya's separatist movement, met in Grozny Sunday to approve the plan to hold elections. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

But the congress, meeting for the first time since 1990 when it declared the independence of the Chechen republic, was interrupted by a bomb scare, and the delegates resolved to reconvene in the town of Urus-Martan some 35 kilometres southwest of Grozny.

The peace agreement signed Aug. 31, which shelve the thorny issue of Chechen independence for five years, put an end to 21 months of fighting in the small Muslim republic that left upward of 40,000 people dead, most of them civilians.

Both sides have largely respected a ceasefire, but sporadic shootings have interrupted the truce. Overnight Saturday, five Russian soldiers were injured when their position came under fire, Interfax quoted the Russian military command in Chechnya as saying.

## Japanese police search river for gun used in police chief shooting

TOKYO (AFP) — Police searched a Tokyo river Sunday for a gun allegedly used in the shooting of Japan's police chief, following questioning of a policeman who belonged to the Aum Supreme Truth Doomsday Cult, police said.

Some 80 officers from Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, including 15 divers, searched the Ka River running through central Tokyo for the gun believed to have been used in the March 30, 1995 shooting of national police chief Takaji Kumimatsu, who was seriously injured.

The seven-hour search, however, ended without success, although Jiji press said the police did come up with seven bicycles, some cellular phones and beepers.

The team will resume search operations Monday. Police have alleged that a 31-year-old Tokyo policeman admitted earlier this year to shooting Chief Kumimatsu under the

orders of the sect, which has been accused of several violent crimes, including a nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway that killed 12 and injured thousands.

But police say the officer was emotionally upset and his alleged confession contained ambiguity and discrepancies.

The attack on Chief Kumimatsu, who was leading the investigation into the Doomsday Cult, occurred 10 days after the deadly sarin gassing.

The policeman, whose name was withheld, allegedly told investigators he threw the gun into the river from a bridge near the Suidobashi Station in central Tokyo, local news reports said, quoting police sources.

The search for the gun came a day after the National Police Agency ordered the Tokyo police to speed up the investigation, after complaining that the metropolitan police had not informed the agency of the policeman's statements, made several

months ago, until last week.

The policeman's suspected involvement was reported by local newspapers Friday following a tip-off blaming the Tokyo police for a cover up aimed at protecting "the dignity of the profession."

The policeman is reportedly being detained in a police facility but has not been arrested because of the lack of evidence.

The newspapers said the officer also allegedly leaked confidential information to senior Aum members ahead of a raid on the cult in March 1995.

The Asahi Shimbun said Sunday the officer had alleged that the cult's "intelligence minister" Yoshihiro Inoue provided him with the gun to shoot the police chief.

The Yomiuri Shimbun claimed six Aum members, including two who are still on the run, were involved in the attack.





Rwandan refugees from the Panzi Refugee Camp near Bukavu flee atop a loaded down pickup after an area near their camp was shelled by ethnic Tutsi rebels. Up to 500,000 Rwandan refugees in the Goma and Bukavu area are fleeing fighting between the rebels and Zairean military (Reuters photo)

## Sri Lankan rebels smash police post; navy on red alert

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas smashed a police post in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday, killing five people as the navy stepped up patrols after the rebels sank a gun boat, killing 12 sailors, officials said.

Guerrillas from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) overwhelmed the Pulleyaradi police post and escaped after killing two guards and three civilians there, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It said seven more people were wounded in the daring day-time attack. The Tigers fled as reinforcements from near by army camps were rushed in, the ministry said. There were no immediate reports of rebel casualties.

The latest attack against the police raised to 73 the number of people killed on both sides in a wave of fresh

violence in the past week, officials said.

The violence came as security forces intensified patrolling to track down boats of the LTTE off the north-eastern coast where Tiger suicide cadres destroyed an Israeli-built Dvora gunboat, officials said.

Defence officials said two officers and 10 sailors were killed in the spectacular attack off the coast of Trincomalee, a staging post for allied troops during World War II.

"The Tigers used suicide cadres to ram a boat packed with explosives against the Dvora gunboat P-457," a local official said.

"There would have been at least two terrorists onboard the suicide craft."

Officials said a flotilla of about 10 Tiger boats had put out to sea Saturday to isolate the navy craft and eventually sink it together with

all 12 people onboard.

Investigations were Sunday to see whether the rebels were actually on a mission to attack the port of Trincomalee, the main launching pad for action against Tigers in the north-east.

"They are making a tremendous attempt to infiltrate the harbour to cause more damage," a local official said.

The latest round of fighting known as "Eelam War III" started in Trincomalee when the LTTE called off six months of talks with the government and sank two gun boats berthed inside the port in April last year.

Tiger guerrillas who are leading a protracted campaign for a homeland called Eelam in the island's northern and eastern regions have staged similar attacks against the navy in the region since then.

The latest loss suffered by the navy compounded problems for security forces in the island's eastern province after troops secured the northern strongholds of the Tigers earlier this year.

The Tigers smashed a police post four days ago and escaped after killing 18 constables and two civilians, officials said.

The assault against the police came a day after an identical attack on an army outpost in the eastern district of Batticaloa where eight soldiers were killed.

Last week, the military also escalated attacks against the Tigers by taking on a coastal base of the LTTE. Nine soldiers and 17 rebels died in the attack.

Tigers are leading the protracted separatist campaign that has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

## Dole slams Clinton on immigration and ethics

MERCED, California (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole hammered away at President Clinton on immigration and ethics Saturday in California, hoping to cut his Democratic rival's commanding lead in a key state.

"He thinks he has this state wrapped up. He thinks California's in the bag. But it's not going to happen," Sen. Dole promised during a "rally the valley" bus tour of the fertile central valley.

A fired-up Sen. Dole suggested Mr. Clinton go on television to apologise to the American people for scandals in his administration.

"I say to the president of the United States, why don't you just get on television ... To confess to the American people that none of this should have happened? You ought to go ask for mercy," Sen. Dole said.

The Dole campaign has decided to focus much of its time and money on this prize state in the 10 days before the election. California has 54 of the 270 electoral college votes needed to win the White House.

A Los Angeles Times poll

earlier this week showed Sen. Dole trailing Mr. Clinton by 20 points in California, but Republican campaign officials say their own polls show a single-digit gap.

Sen. Dole drew respectable, but not huge, crowds in a part of the state Republicans consider a stronghold. Asked why Sen. Dole was spending so much time in an area where he already had support, California strategist Ken Khachigian said, "to run up the score, I need every vote I can get."

Mr. Khachigian said immigration would be a key focus for Sen. Dole.

Half his television advertisements and all his radio ads in the state will accuse Mr. Clinton of not doing enough to crack down on illegal immigrants.

"Suddenly now in an election year, President Clinton is moving all these (immigration) agents from other states into California, trying to make it appear he's really going to get tough," Sen. Dole said in Selma. "Why did you wait four years, Mr. President?"

Throughout the day, Sen. Dole punched away at Mr.

Clinton, making the case that his administration was too corrupt for him to be reelected.

He reeled off a list of scandals, from possibly illegal donations to the Democrats to the Whitewater affair and the White House's improper acquisition of 900 FBI files on Republicans.

"Can you imagine a Republican president doing any of those things? No," Sen. Dole said in Visalia.

Then, apparently remembering the scandal that brought down former Republican President Richard Nixon, he added: "In fact, Watergate wasn't very pleasant for Republicans. I know somebody who went to jail for looking at one FBI file, one FBI file. Not 900."

Later Sen. Dole said Republicans had been punished for Watergate and probably should have been.

The Kansas Republican, badly wounded in the World War II, criticised Mr. Clinton for not serving in Vietnam. "I've never said a thing about the president's record in the service — lack of record, let's put it that way. But I am just a little

unnerved when I see him wearing those army fatigues like he's been in the army all his life," he said.

Immigration has been a hot issue in California, where 59 per cent of voters approved a proposition to deny nearly all benefits to illegal immigrants. Its implementation has been held up in the courts.

Mr. Clinton has made a concentrated effort to woo California since taking office, visiting the state about 30 times and dispensing government defence contracts and other aid.

Sen. Dole, who has lashed out at reporters in recent days, said Saturday he was sorry if he had offended the press corps. He then repeated some of his charges against it.

Meanwhile, the New York Times endorsed President Bill Clinton in its Sunday edition, calling him the best candidate for the presidency and saying he has grown in the job.

"He is clearly the candidate of hope and progress in this race," an editorial said.

# Zaire sends fresh troops as Tutsi rebels extend control

BUKAVU, Zaire (R) — Zaire sent fresh troops into its eastern region where fighting with advancing Tutsi rebels has put up to 500,000 frightened Hutu refugees and Zairean civilians to flight.

Soldiers in new uniforms appeared on the streets of Bukavu, capital of Zaire's south Kivu province, Saturday and young militiamen, wearing red bandanas and armed with nailed clubs, blocked roads or rode around on trucks.

The United Nations, which has airlifted its aid workers out of Bukavu and the war zone, called for an emergency mission and an international conference to prevent the conflict spreading throughout Central Africa.

A U.N. statement, issued in the name of human rights investigator Robert Garreto of Chile, appealed to Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi "to refrain from all acts and declarations."

Zaire, host to over a million Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi, has accused the Tutsi government and armies now in power there of helping their kinsmen by backing their rebellion with soldiers and weapons. Rwanda and Burundi deny the charge.

"Rwandan troops are crossing into Zaire," south Kivu Governor Kyembwa Wa Lumuna told Reuters Saturday. He said they were crossing via a hydroelectric dam on the border about 18 km south of Bukavu.

The Tutsi rebels, from the

300,000-strong Banyamulenge community which migrated from Rwanda 200 years ago, accuse Zaire of denying them citizenship and harassment to make them leave.

Military sources and state radio in Burundi said the rebels had captured the town of Uvira at the northern end of Lake Tanganyika after two days of battles with Zairean forces.

Aid workers in north Kivu said Tutsi fighters had also seized the town of Rutshuru, 50 kilometres from Goma city, the capital of north Kivu province.

The fighting between the Banyamulenge Tutsis and Zaire's army, which erupted after an Oct. 18 attack on a sugar factory near Uvira, has emptied a string of

refugee camps near the border with Burundi.

More than 220,000 Hutu refugees sheltering in the camps either fled to nearby mountains or trekked the 100 kilometres north to Bukavu in hope of finding refuge there.

Aid workers said that in addition up to 200,000 refugees left Kibumba, Zaire's second largest refugee camp, after an overnight attack on the camp near Goma wounded 30 refugees.

The Banyamulenge Tutsi offensive has also put tens of thousands of Zairean civilians to flight.

U.N. planes evacuated 128 U.N. and other expatriate aid workers and some other foreigners from Bukavu Saturday.

## British parties vie for moral high ground

LONDON (R) — With Britain's political parties battling for the moral high ground in the runup to a general election, the Conservative government

pledged Sunday that family values would be taught in a new code for schools.

The wife of a school headmaster stabbed to death by a teenager struck an emotional chord with Britons last week when she called for a moral crusade to redress the collapse of discipline.

Political leaders, mindful of a general election that must be called by next May, fell over themselves to back Frances Lawrence's moral rallying cry.

For Britons, who once prided themselves on what they saw as a peaceful and well ordered society, are alarmed about rising violence, the breakdown of families and the paralysis of schools by unruly pupils.

The Dunblane massacre

of 16 schoolchildren and their teacher by a crazed loner prompted a ban on virtually all handguns.

The Conservatives, eager not to lose ground to the opposition Labour Party over law and order, has announced it is to bring in mandatory sentencing for criminals and hastily agreed to new laws on curbing paedophiles and obsessive stalkers.

With its slogan "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime", Labour has eaten into traditional Conservative support over law and order.

Labour Party Manager Donald Dewar said Sunday he hoped Conservative legislation would not be driven entirely by political considerations in the runup to the election.

"There is genuine public concern about getting the right balance and ensuring that we can effectively com-

bat crime," he told BBC television.

He stressed, however: "Let us discuss the merits and not consider everything in terms of the general election."

The latest moral battleground is the British schoolyard.

Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, who is planning to introduce a classroom course of moral values, insisted Sunday that it should portray the family as "a bulwark of society."

She was responding to a report by 150 education experts for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) which is said to have made no mention of marriage.

SCAA chief executive Nick Tate said the breakdown of families was so widespread in some areas that teaching children about marriage was no longer practical.

"It is very difficult. How do you teach marriage at a school where 60 per cent of children come from broken families," he told the Sunday Express.

Ms. Shephard, responding on GMTV, said: "It is a very delicate area but I do think that more emphasis might be placed on the value of the family as a bulwark of society."

"I am in no doubt whatsoever that strong family support and the contribution that strong families make to society are of inestimable value and we must look at ways to strengthen that side of the report," she said.

Her call for parents to give more support to schools was echoed by Dr Jonathan Sacks, Britain's chief rabbi, who told BBC radio: "You have to work out a way of getting homes in a new partnership with teachers."

## Bulgarians vote in presidential election

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarians voted Sunday in their second presidential elections since the end of Communist rule but many people said they had little faith in politicians' ability to resolve the country's acute economic crisis.

In the capital Sofia, early turnout was light for the poll which is expected to offer a crucial mid-term test of the popularity of the ex-Communist Socialist government.

"I do not foresee any real change," said 22-year-old cook Bozhidar Nedelchev in Sofia's populous Mladost district.

"For us the young people it is very difficult to live in this country these days — if I can get abroad I will try my luck there."

Voters facing soaring prices and Communist-style shortages in the coming Balkan winter look set to rebuff the candidate of the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), Culture Minister Ivan Marazov.

Polls show lawyer Petar Stoyanov, candidate of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and other opposition parties, ahead of Mr. Marazov but short of a first round majority.

Political analysts say a poor showing for the Socialists could widen divisions within their ranks and prove deeply embarrassing for Prime Minister Zhan Videnov.

"This country needs a change and since we failed the first time, we have to start somewhere," said Stoyanov supporter Tanya Hristova, a middle-aged accountant voting in Sofia's prosperous Lozenets district.

After Communism fell in 1989,



An elderly woman greets the opposition Union of Democratic Forces presidential candidate Petar Stoyanov in front of a polling station Sunday. Bulgarians voted Sunday in their second presidential elections since the end of Communist rule, but many people said they had little faith in politicians' ability to resolve the country's acute economic crisis (Reuters photo)

Bulgaria's ruling elite renamed themselves Socialists and won parliamentary elections in 1990 and 1994.

But despite promising to move towards a free market economy, progress in the largely agricultural nation of just 8.4 million people has been slow, while living standards continue to fall.

Mainly elderly voters however were supporting Mr. Marazov and blamed the UDF for the crisis.

"The only way to continue with the reforms is to provide stability for gov-

ernment institutions," said BSP supporter Dimitar Penchev. "The BSP car towards reform once all the country's institutions are in its power."

Nineteen-year-old Ivan Dimitro said he was voting for comedian Hristo Boichev and Ivan Kouleko whose satirical campaign has won praise as one of the few which has openly discussed the country's crisis.

"Bulgarian politics is a sham and it is my only way of protesting again

# Hollywood stars bestow dollars and glamour on U.S. candidate

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Not long after the caviar has been devoured and the champagne has gone flat, the real celebration begins as hefty Hollywood donations for presidential campaigns are tallied.

Hollywood is a cash cow for presidential candidates who return here time after time for the unmatched ability of celebrities not only to raise money but to bestow the glow of stardom on their chosen candidate.

Southern California, where most stars here live, gave nearly \$24 million to political campaigns this year, according to the Washington-based Centre for

Responsive Politics that tracks campaign donors.

In this decidedly liberal town, President Bill Clinton is the candidate of choice. He can count on a list of celebrities to attract the wealthy who like the intoxicating feel of rubbing shoulders with the powerful and famous.

On a balmy evening in September at a sumptuous fundraiser dinner in a stunning Mediterranean-style estate overlooking Beverly Hills, Barbra Streisand sang and Maya Angelou read poetry to a beaming Mr. Clinton.

Limousines lined the road leading to the estate. By evening's end where

the top names in entertainment mingled with Mr. Clinton — paying as much as \$25,000 to get close to him — Democrats raised \$3.5 million.

For every dollar that goes to the Republican Party in southern California, 10 go to the Democrats, the centre said. Mr. Clinton's own campaign pulled in \$442,000 compared to Sen. Dole's \$166,000. "It's true this is pretty much a one-party town," said Kelly Novak of the Centre for Popular Culture.

But she faults the Republicans and, particularly presidential candidate Bob Dole, for giving up too easily.

"He didn't take us seri-

ously. If he had, he might not have found California to be such an obstacle in his campaign. Mr. Clinton came across as more accessible, even to Republicans."

Republicans do have some heavy Hollywood hitters in Charlton Heston, Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis but Ms. Novak said Sen. Dole has failed to motivate Republican stars to rally for him.

That could hurt his "California or bust" strategy of winning the nation's biggest bunch of electoral votes. The state has 54 of the 270 electoral votes need to win the Nov. 5

presidential election.

But Sen. Dole has dug himself a deep hole here.

He excoriated entertainment executives for debasing the nation's culture by relying on violence and sex that have made "Hollywood's dream factories nightmares of depravity."

That stand ingrained him with his party's powerful right wing but it also gave him a bit of a cold Darth Vader image in sharp contrast to the saxophone-playing Mr. Clinton who loves to share the limelight with stars.

Sen. Dole tried to make amends and returned to Hollywood months later to say the studios had res-

ponded to America's need to see family values reflected. To the bafflement of some, he heralded "Independence Day."

True, America does save the world from wicked aliens and the White House gets tried in the film. But the film also features a stripper, her child and her boyfriend fighter pilot who worries that marrying could be a career killer.

There has long been a tight bond between Washington and Hollywood.

Veteran legislators gets starstruck when celebrities come to Capitol Hill to espouse their pet views. And Hollywood loves to schmooze with political

glitterati.

Hollywood's preference for Democrats dates back to 1945 when Lauren Bacall was photographed lying across a piano as Harry Truman played. Then there was John Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe.

A list of individual campaign southern California contributors to candidates — limited to \$1,000 per donor — reads like the "who's who" in Hollywood for Mr. Clinton donors.

Among top Democratic givers were dreamworks studio executives David Geffen (\$575,697), Steven Spielberg (\$503,123) and

Jeffrey Katzenberg (\$408,320). Former audio Chairman Lew Wasserman gave \$507,883.

Sen. Dole and Mr. Clinton fundraisers a study in contrast by style and how its town responds to the two men. The Streisand fundraiser pulled out all the stops and the mood was festive.

By contrast, Sen. Dole spoke at a fine fundraiser of some people including Bette Midler, Bo Derek and Stacey Scoggins that topped a mere \$400,000. The response to him was lukewarm, the mood subdued.

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## Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

# Quality appreciation is vital to economic development

HOW CAN Jordan develop and become an emerging economy? Traditional economists would answer this question by addressing the resources/factors of production in which Jordan has a comparative advantage. I.e., those resources that are relatively cheaper at home than abroad. Some goods and services are produced less expensively in Jordan than elsewhere, by utilising those cheap resources. Jordan has a relative abundance of inexpensive, well-trained labour which it has been sending for more than three decades to the Gulf countries and advertising to the world to come and employ, whether at home or abroad. This is the development story which we have been touting for a long time and it has not done us any great good.

Jordanians working in the Gulf have faithfully remitted their savings year after year, only to create more inflation than work for the "unlucky" ones that stayed behind. Cheap labour alone is not an attraction for investment. In fact, cheap labour may be a sign that something is wrong with the economy. Expensive, skilled labour, on the other hand, is the sign of a healthy economy and a great enticement for international investment.

A banker considering investment opportunities in Jordan wondered last week how the Lebanese economy was able to attract investment at a faster rate than Jordan, even though Lebanon had such a prolonged, devastating war and Jordan did not. The answer is, contrary to traditional economic theory, that the demand for goods and services in Lebanon is more sophisticated than the demand in Jordan. High and sophisticated demand levels require producers to create sophisticated goods and services. This, in turn, requires that know-how and skill be intensively used in the making of products. Thus, industry would hire highly skilled workers or train the existing work force and pay high wages, leading to higher income levels and greater savings which would trigger an even greater demand; as a result, investment snowballs and the economy takes off.

Sophisticated demand was part of the Lebanese attempt. The creation of such a demand has little to do with natural endowments in minerals and resources, but has everything to do with several factors, which include the globalisation of the economy. Opening the economy allows the consumer to view and evaluate a wide array of options and thus develop a certain taste and a sense of quality. As a high sense of quality emerges, people create a highly competitive market in which firms must vie with each other and the world, not only in price but also in quality. As this sense takes over the purchasing behaviour of a nation, firms that strive to and succeed in advancing their production methods and the quality of their products are rewarded by consumer purchases and high revenues. Most significantly, prices increase as the quality improves just like in the Japanese success case, and many other models around the world. After all, no one can say that U.S. or German labour is inexpensive, yet everyone agrees that they are highly skilled and productive.

Quality appreciation is vital to development because it

addresses the demand side of the market and gives hopes of development to countries that have scarce natural resources. Jordan witnessed a boost in quality appreciation with the return of Jordanians from Kuwait in 1991. Due to their lifestyle in a consumption-oriented society like Kuwait, they developed a sense of quality which they brought with them to Jordan and which they demanded of the domestic market. As a result of this demand and the injection of investment funds, which unfortunately went mainly into the construction sector, the economy took off in 1992 and expanded by 16 per cent, a growth rate that exceeded the highest rates of Jordan's best year 1973-1983.

The inclusion of demand as a factor in the development of a country is not very new to economics. Professor Michael Porter from Harvard University put forth, twenty five years ago, a new paradigm for development that uniquely views the whole economy, delineating everything and ignoring nothing. In his model, several factors have to be considered within a dynamic framework to create an advanced economy.

Relationships among firms in the economy are very important for the creation of a strongly competitive market at home. To become a global competitor one must first learn to compete at home. No industry can take-off by simply leaping over its domestic competition and going into the international markets. Such industries will always be subject to great risks and are susceptible to failure.

Furthermore, intra-industrial relationships and cooperation must be advanced and developed. Economies where firms are unable to rely on other firms for goods and services are never to develop. In other words, a firm must be able to rely on other firms for certain processes of production, otherwise all production will have to be done in-house, which takes away the ability of a firm to expand and gain scale economies.

Additionally, factors of production must be sophisticated and willing to undergo a continuous process of training and retraining. New processes require new skills and the fastest method for acquiring new skills is through training. The average person in the U.S. is expected to retrain three times in a lifetime. The typical Japanese executive undergoes a continuous training process for at least one third of his career.

The government plays an important role in the Porter model. It is supposed to facilitate greater competition, maintain political stability, open markets to global competition and enhance the physical infrastructure and human resources.

Overall, the insight of professor Porter into economic development provides more hope to Jordan than any other model. The immediate applicability of his theory, which has been proven in many countries that are similar to Jordan, makes it a necessary ingredient in our developmental and intellectual frameworks. The time has come for demand, and not the government, to be the one to blame for some of Jordan's ailments.

# Personal choice, freedom of expression are essential for progress of democracy

By Sa'eda Kilani

THE INTOLERANCE that deputies and opposition figures have been demonstrating against exactly the same freedoms they should be upholding and defending is staggering, to say the least.

Their attempts to silence their critics and to halt television programmes that are not to their liking, resonate with alarm about the state and the future of our democracy.

It is indeed alarming that those opposition figures seem to accept, and demand, criticism when it is directed at others. But when they are its target, especially in the media, they bring up anachronistic values and ideals to protest the unsuitability and inappropriateness of such criticism.

Against the backdrop of continued demands for more freedoms that those Parliamentary opposition figures have been making, their attacks on such new television talk shows as "Welcome government," and new satirical publications as the weekly *Abed Rabbo*, seem incomprehensible.

Unless one accepts the premise that the kind of freedom the opposition wants is that which bites all but themselves, we have no choice but to tell our deputies that freedoms of the press and expression are indivisible. Democracy is a package deal. They either accept it as a system of government or else they opt for selectivity as a way of life.

Most people would remember the opposition deputies' outcry when Jordan television decided not to air their speeches in full during the debate on the government's decision

to lift subsidies on bread and fodder last August. All hell broke loose in protest then. Opposition members of the Lower House severely criticised JTV and blasted the government for this "massive infringement on democracy." The deputies even went as far as boycotting the sessions of the House at what was seen as a critical moment in this country's political and socio-economic history.

But now that the opposition figures became a target of the satire "Welcome government," just as the government did in fact, many of them appear to have forgotten everything they have called for over the past three years. Not only have they shown complete lack of understanding of the message and meaning of the show; they have also threatened to take the prime minister, his minister of information and the television station to court over it.

We do not know yet whether they still want to carry out the threat after actors Nabeel and Hisham apologised publicly for one-line they used about the deputies in one of the early shows. But whatever happens, the episode remains a case in point of how the assumed protectors of democracy are willing to sidestep its rules and ideals when it does not serve their best interests.

Opposition deputies in particular, who keep criticising the government over what they describe as its violations of public freedoms and infringement on democracy, cannot be intolerant of others' rights and freedoms.

But, it seems, it is not only the parliamentary opposition that sometimes condemns freedoms which they themselves had

fought and long demanded.

Supposedly other advocates of public freedoms do likewise. A lawyer recently wrote in one of the daily newspapers criticising a new talk show on Jordan Television, "People's talk." (The programme) should be halted, he said, "because it tackles problems that do not exist in our society."

According to the lawyer, Musa Al A'raj, reports about "crimes of honour" and "abuse of women" in Jordan are baseless claims. He believes the programme should be stopped because it tackles phenomena that are "alien" to our society.

Probably the lawyer has never heard the calls of his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan when he addressed such "heinous crimes" that are committed in the name of "honour", or otherwise, in our midst. It seems Mr. A'raj never looked at the Public Security Department's annual reports that list "crimes of honour" as registering the highest rate of crimes committed in the Kingdom.

Our advocates of public freedoms go even further and call for "stopping" the publication of the satirical weekly *Abed Rabbo*. The newspaper, which appeared on the stands just a few months ago, was one of their main targets. In meetings of the opposition figures, in the press and most recently over the Internet, voices called for closing the weekly down because "it has crossed the forbidden limits."

It is quite amazing to see that the government, which has been the most frequent target of *Abed Rabbo*'s scathing attacks, either by words and drawings, has been more toler-

ant than the opposition figures and so-called guardians of public freedoms who saw in this newspaper an infringement on moral ethics and cultural behaviour.

In their claimed position as defenders of public freedoms, opposition deputies should not, cannot, try to suppress other people's opinions. They are entitled to express disapproval of certain programmes and newspapers, but they cannot, by any means, call for "stopping" a programme or "closing down" a newspaper.

The facts show that the opposition deputies do not speak for the people in their current campaign. Most of their targets are "widely circulated newspapers" or "very popular talk shows" or "most favourite series," like the "Bold and the Beautiful" TV drama, to which deputies objected on moral grounds.

It is quite frightening to think that self-appointed or elected human rights advocates are seeking to place more curbs on public and personal freedoms.

This can only prove that democratic thinking is still some distance from being instilled in our collective culture. Articles and programmes like the ones to which the deputies object can help mould that culture, although their value can vary from one person to another. We are not defending "Abed Rabbo" or the "Bold and the Beautiful," but they should be there for those who want to read and watch them.

Guaranteeing personal choice is essential to advance democracy.

The writer is a member of the Jordan Times' editorial staff.

## Human Rights File

# Conscientious objectors in Israel — not a remote possibility

By Waleed M. Sadi

THE PROPHECY of the Head of Tel Aviv University Centre for Strategic Studies, Professor Ze'ev Maoz, that Israel is heading towards a military coup d'état may have been as frivolous or innocent as it first looked.

While it is true that any talk of a putsch in Israel appears to be far fetched and remote, the mere mention of it suggests motives that go beyond the subject itself. Israel remains a viable and operational democracy and there can be no room for military interventions to "correct" its path as much as we would like to see Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Likud-led government change their stance on the peace process.

The Arab countries suffered a great deal from military coups d'état and we are not about to welcome their proliferation to other countries in the region. If change needs to be made in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, it should be brought about by democratic means rather than by revolutionary methods that have repeatedly proved their futility.

So why are there people within Israel who still speculate about a military coup at a time when they know very well that it is so remote that it belongs to the realm of the impossible?

The answer may lie in the fact that distrust between the political establishment and the military is more pervasive than originally thought. It is an open secret that the Israeli military leadership was repeatedly excluded from the decision-making process by Mr. Netanyahu. It turns out to be absolutely true that the government of Netanyahu is deeply suspicious of the Labour-appointed military and security leadership, then it may suit the purposes of the extremists to drive a wedge between the military who have approved the Oslo I and II accords, and the government which opposes them. It is no longer inconceivable that the anti current military leadership in Israel aims to take Likud members away from the scene and replace them with like-minded military staff by spreading rumours about military interventions.

What we may take more seriously, though, is the story about some Israeli soldiers who threaten not to report for duty by disobeying call-up orders to express their objections to Netanyahu's policies. What gives credence to this story is the joint letter, sent not too long ago, to the Israeli prime minister by several Israeli officers and soldiers which was openly critical of his position on the Oslo accords with the Palestinians. This would be reminiscent of the U.S. experience during the Vietnam war, when thousands of Americans refused military service and burned their military call-up orders in defiance of Washington's determination to pursue its military objectives in that country. It is conceivable that some Israeli soldiers may opt to emulate the Americans, under certain conditions, and the Israeli government should no longer view this possibility as too remote to take seriously.

International human rights conventions accord men and women eligible for military duty the right to refuse military service as conscientious objectors and demand instead a substitute service. Such objectors can base their rejection of military involvement on moral or religious grounds.

The scope of moral ground is so wide as to allow people disapproving of a certain war effort to invoke it in support of their stance. The religious argument is more restraining since it has to be based on clear religious edicts before it can be entertained in a court of law. When young Israelis feel that their new leadership is robbing them of the opportunity to lead a normal life, they could very well make their objections loud and clear as their counterparts in several Western societies have done in the past.

If Israelis are just as much westernised as the Americans or the Swedes or the Dutch, for example, we might as well expect expressions of opposition to certain wars in the form of draft dodging. In a way, this kind of development on the Israeli scene may prove useful to advance the prospects of peace in the Middle East. In any case, Israeli is treaty obligated to honour the principle of "conscientious objection" by virtue of its ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This has been the established jurisprudence of the Committee on Human Rights (CHR) which monitors and applies the Covenant. In other words, Israeli men and women may refuse military service in any future armed conflict that Prime Minister Netanyahu might drag them in, in deference to their moral stand on the peace process.

## LETTERS

# Lion's share misplaced

To the Editor:

REGARDING THE article "China wins gold in photography contest" (Jordan Times, Oct. 26, 1996), I would like to make these remarks: The Second International Photographic Show Competition, which concluded Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre and was entitled "Peace for This World", had five components that were to be taken into consideration when appraising the exhibits: childhood, human portrait, aesthetics, landscape and tourism.

Jordan won the lion's share, for it acquired three gold medals, won by Yahya Massad (childhood), Usamah Natour (aesthetics), Fadi Haddad (tourism) and three bronze medals, won by Shoman Mohammad (childhood), Amad Homs (landscape) and Yahya Massad (tourism). Jordan also won four meritorious certificates.

China won one gold medal, three silver medals and one bronze medal as well as two meritorious certificates.

Dr. Fadi Haddad, Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Arabs expect U.S. peace efforts to continue after Nov. 5 election

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian and Arab experts believe the United States will pursue its efforts for a peace settlement in the Middle East after the November presidential election, no matter who wins.

A senior Arab League official who requested anonymity said even a victory by former Republican Senator Bob Dole over the incumbent, Democrat Bill Clinton, "won't make much of a difference."

"There are institutions in the United States that are well rooted," he said. "There cannot be fundamental foreign policy changes."

The official added, however, that the "United States will have a freer hand to be more active in the Middle East" after the Nov. 5 presidential vote.

"But that doesn't mean there will be a magic solution, more U.S. pressure on Israel or that the new U.S. administration will act according to the wishes of

the Arabs," he said. For Manar Al Shorbagy, an Egyptian political scientist specialising in American affairs, the difference will be dictated by "the balance between the executive and legislative branch."

Foreign Ministry officials in Cairo anticipate Clinton's reelection and no fundamental changes in U.S. policy vis-a-vis the peace process.

"We don't expect any big differences to emerge concerning U.S. policies towards Israel be it under a Mr. Dole or Mr. Clinton administration," one official said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa declined to speculate on the outcome but said: "I have always thought that a country like the United States, should not, even in time of elections, be diplomatically crippled."

For the head of the London-based centre of Arab studies, Abdul Maguid Farid, the onus for any

change to secure a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement is on the Arabs themselves.

He excluded any U.S. economic pressure on Israel after the elections but expected the new president to take a tougher approach with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a bid to salvage stability in the region.

"Whoever wins, the real key to solving our problems will continue to be Arab coordination... for the sake of preserving stability in this region which is considered one of the most vital regions for American strategic interests."

"A lack of stability in the region will trigger anger in the Arab street and could mean that Arab governments will delay or stop normalisation (with Israel) or take other measures which could harm U.S. interests in the region," he said.

## 10 Jordan opposition parties visit Syria today to 'express solidarity'

(Continued from page 12)

government "has no problem with the visit."

"The parties are free to visit as long as they remain committed to the Constitution and the political parties law," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"All parties are free to express their views on the peace process and other issues but we would like to remind them that the law does not allow parties to have external financial and

organisational links," added the official.

The official reiterated Jordan's support for Syria's "strategic decision" to work for peace with Israel on the basis of U.N. resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

"We support Syria's position in the (peace) negotiations and urge Israel to heed Damascus' demands for resuming the talks on the basis of this formula," said the official.

Dr. Zayyadin said the delegation was expected to be

received in Syria by Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Jordanian-Syrian relations have stabilised after His Majesty King Hussein visited Syria in August after the two leaders met on the periphery of the Arab summit in Cairo in June.

During the meeting, the King presented President Hafez Al Assad with a file listing what Jordan said were 62 sabotage attempts by Syrian-based groups. No such attempts were reported since then.

## Ross seeks to seal Hebron deal

(Continued from page 1)

ed issues are still disputed," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

He said the differences included Israel's demand for the right to pursue Palestinian militants into parts of Hebron vacated by Israel and what weapons Palestinian police would carry.

Mr. Netanyahu's handling of peace talks and his settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where 140,000 Jews live among two million Palestinians have angered his Arab peace partners.

Mr. Netanyahu lifted the previous government's restrictions on settlement activity in August. Settlers said on Sunday technical details which had held up sale of the 3,000 empty apartments in the West Bank settlements had now been overcome.

"Prices were set for the apartments and the marketing has begun," said settler leader Aharon Domb. A government spokesman said he was checking the report.

The apartments were completed years ago but Israel's Labour government had blocked their sale.

Peace Now, a left-wing organisation that monitors settlement construction, criticised the decision and said in a statement that the move was "intended to stop the peace process and the negotiations."

Israel Radio said that some 700 of the homes released for sale were in the

West Bank settlement of Ariel and others were in Kiryat Arba outside Hebron.

Mr. Bar-Ilan confirmed the prime minister approved putting the homes on the market but denied it was directly tied to the Hebron redeployment negotiations.

Mr. Ross and the two sides met in the Tel Aviv home of U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk late Saturday evening in talks led by Mahmoud Abbas. Mr. Arafat's second in command, and Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak.

"There is still a gap and the differences remain deep," Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said.

Aside from the hot pursuit issue, differences focus on security arrangements on Tel Abu Sineia, a hill overlooking the Jewish settlements, and on a road nearby the Beit Hadasa settlement in the city centre.

Mr. Asfour said. Gaps also remain over limits on armaments which Israel wants to impose on Palestinian police and the details of a joint security commission, he said.

Meanwhile, in the volatile city, Jewish settlers opened fire on Palestinians who threw rocks at their car as they drove through an Arab neighbourhood. Israel Radio reported.

No one was injured in the shooting and the two were arrested by Israeli soldiers who also sealed off the street where the incident occurred.

A member of the Israeli negotiating team, Oren Shahor, met in Hebron with a delegation from the Jewish settlements to defend the withdrawal negotiations.

Mr. Shahor, quoted by the radio, insisted the negotiations have led to "an improvement compared to the original accord" on the pullout detailed in the 1995 Oslo agreement.

In the negotiations, neither side wants a delay amid multiplying warnings about violence from Jewish settlers and suicide attacks by militants.

Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, the leader of the militant Islamic Jihad, said Sunday that Mr. Arafat's security forces were preventing the group from carrying out suicide bombings and other attacks in Israel.

In a telephone interview with the Arabic service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Shallah vowed to carry out attacks to avenge last year's assassination of former Jihad leader, Fathi Shaqaqi.

Meanwhile, both Palestinians and Israelis were attempting to strengthen their hold in Hebron.

The daily Yediot Ahronot said Israel noted a Palestinian attempt to take over houses in Hebron that lie between a Jewish enclave in the city and the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. About 450 Jews live among 120,000 Palestinians in Hebron and most are ardent nationalists.

## Peres says Assad had agreed to meet him

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians nothing in negotiations.

"Only now they're beginning to understand that if you want peace for nothing, you have nothing," Mr. Peres said. He said the Likud Party "cannot remain in their own ideology... They have to move as well."

He also said that his criticism of Mr. Netanyahu's government was raised

doubts about Mr. Netanyahu among Israelis. "I think that many people are beginning to feel that maybe we were right," he said.

Arguing that Israel and the Arabs would eventually achieve peace, he said the negotiations were like "an advanced pregnancy." When asked when the baby would arrive, he replied "not in nine months."

Mr. Peres made few direct criticisms of Mr.

Netanyahu to reporters, but in an interview published Sunday by the Arabic daily Al Hayat he accused the Israeli leader of slowing down the peace process.

"A tortoise cannot participate in a horse race... You cannot say you want to be a tortoise and ask others to be tortoises," he said. "My criticism of the government is that it chose to move slowly while all the rest are hurrying up."



PEACE RALLY: Tens of thousands of Israelis demonstrate for peace late Saturday with a huge rally marking the first anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The demonstrators gathered outside the prime minister's office after they formed a five-kilometre human 'Chain of Peace' from downtown Jerusalem to Rabin's grave (Reuters photo)

## Reduction in bread prices unlikely before new year

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although Jordan has signed a contract to buy 150,000 tonnes of wheat at the lowest price in several years, the price of bread in the Kingdom is expected to go down only by the new year barring a political decision to the contrary, officials and market experts said Sunday.

"The government would like to announce a reduction in bread prices immediately, but practical reasons warrant otherwise," said an official source. "It (the government) does not want to be rushed into reducing the prices only to confront a possible reversal of the recent drop in international prices for wheat."

On the other hand, however, observers said, the government might opt for an immediate reduction in prices in a bid to undermine opposition attacks based on its recent decision to increase the price of bread.

"A political decision is the wild card," commented an observer. "If the opposition pressure and criticism gets too strong, the government might simply pull the rug from under the opposition's feet by announcing a cut in the prices of bread."

The suggested cut in the price is 20 fils per kilogramme from 180 fils for the most popular type of bread, according to officials, but there is no clear decision either in this regard.

Based on simple economic considerations, the government is planning to bring about a gradual reduction in prices, allowing market forces to be the dominant factor while also ensuring that the poor segment of the society would not be adversely affected.

Several reasons are seen behind the government thinking, including unclear signals as yet that the dip in international prices for wheat is here to stay for some time and a strategy aimed at encouraging the private sector to import wheat — a government monopoly until August this year — and ultimately giving private importers the lion's share of the market.

The government is also anxious to ensure that supplying wheat at lower prices to private sector bakeries would not lead to hoarding against expectations of a rise in the international prices, officials said.

In immediate practical terms, any immediate reduction in the price of wheat sold to the private sector would also mean that the government would be selling at below-cost prices because the grain "was bought when prices were high."

According to the officials, the present stocks in the warehouses of the Ministry of Supply were bought in the range of \$220 to \$210.

The officials said the new shipment of 150,000 tonnes of American wheat that Jordan contracted this month at \$164 per tonne was not expected to arrive in the Kingdom before December.

As such, they said, the government wants a reduction in bread prices only after the actual grain enters the ministry's warehouses.

"Even at that, the government might want to supply the wheat only to state-run bakeries to be processed and sold at reduced prices," said one official. But the argument against that line of thinking is the inability of the state-owned bakeries to meet the entire demand of the market and the simple logic that the government cannot under-

cut the private sector by not supplying low-price wheat to non-government bakeries.

"The government will like to see the private sector actively importing wheat, along with other staples like rice and sugar, and market forces dictating prices in a healthy environment," said an official source. "At the same time, the government will also like not to provide room for exploitation and monopoly trade."

According to another official, the Ministry of Supply is seeking to sign one-year or six-month contracts with wheat suppliers at low prices. But, by market definition, such contracts are difficult to come by because suppliers would balk at committing themselves to low prices for medium-term deliveries.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and other members of his cabinet said recently that the consumption of bread in Jordan went down by 45 per cent after the government increased the prices of bread and rechannelled subsidies for wheat into direct cash payments to Jordanians in August.

The main reasons cited for the decline in consumption are less wastage and a significant drop in smuggling of wheat and bread to neighbouring countries.

Government figures show that Jordan consumed around 700,000 tonnes of wheat in 1995; local production accounted for only 10 per cent.

Official estimates indicate that the Kingdom will import around 350,000 to 400,000 tonnes of wheat this year (based on an expectation that the net reduction in consumption would be around 30 to 35 per cent).

## Middle East off the U.S. campaign map

WASHINGTON (R) — In the race for the White House, foreign policy usually takes a back seat.

But in next week's election, international affairs are not even on the campaign bus.

That includes the Middle East, which the Clinton administration had once hoped to tout as a foreign policy success.

In his four years at the White House, President Bill Clinton has hosted three Arab-Israeli summits, visited Israel twice and sent his Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East more than 20 times — compared with once to Beijing.

Conventional wisdom had it that Mr. Clinton invested so much

time and effort because he wanted Jewish funding for his Democratic Party and the Jewish vote on Nov. 5.

"He's already got it," said Pollster John Zogby. "The majority of American Jews say they are going to vote for him."

Jews make up less than two per cent of the electorate but they are concentrated in important electoral college states such as New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California and Florida.

This could be a clincher in a tight race, but Mr. Clinton is up to 15 points ahead of Republican challenger Bob Dole in opinion polls.

He doesn't need a foreign poli-

cy success nor the Jewish vote to win, pollsters agree.

Mr. Clinton's repeated commitment to the security of the Jewish state has earned him the reputation of being the friendliest president ever towards Israel.

This has not deterred Arab Americans from backing him, according to a poll Mr. Zogby conducted during the first week of October. Arab-Americans, who make up about one per cent of voters, prefer Mr. Clinton over Mr. Dole by the same 14 to 15 per cent margin as nationally.

One reason for this popularity has been Mr. Clinton's efforts to keep Israeli-Palestinian peace on track.

## Hariri says social issues priority of new government

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri began work on forming a new government at the weekend and said its top priority would be tackling Lebanon's social problems.

Mr. Hariri, who concentrated in his first four years as prime minister on a multi-billion dollar drive to rebuild Lebanon's war-shattered infrastructure, has often been accused of ignoring social problems and poverty.

Laying out new priorities at a mass meeting of businessmen and politicians on Saturday, he said social issues and forging a "social contract" between business and labour would be the new government's chief concerns.

"I repeat what I have said before, that it is necessary to work on social problems and this will be our priority, for example, health, transport and education," Mr. Hariri told the businessmen and politicians.

"Also, dialogue between the workers and employers in order to achieve the signing of a social contract between them," he said.

Political sources expect the new government to be completed this week.

Mr. Hariri said he would not allow its members to indulge in the squabbling that sometimes paralysed his previous governments.

"I want a government without internal disputes. The opposition is in parliament, not in the government. There must be no opposition in the council of ministers," he said.

Many of the parliamentary deputies Mr. Hariri

consulted on Saturday and Sunday on the makeup of the new government told him that the resolution of social problems must top its agenda.

Concerns about poverty, low pay and dilapidated public services have plagued Mr. Hariri since he took office in October 1992 to rebuild the country after 16 years of civil war.

A report this month that one million of Lebanon's 3.1 million people live in poverty reignited public concern just as Mr. Hariri prepared to form the new government after recent parliamentary elections.

Mr. Hariri has often said workers deserve better conditions but the cash-strapped government could do nothing that would adversely affect overstretched public finances.

Facing mounting labour militancy and sporadic unrest, his previous governments delayed pay raises while banning public protests, once using the army to impose a curfew.

State schoolteachers have called a strike for Nov. 14 to protest against the government's failure to include funds for an agreed pay rise in the 1997 budget.

"We must give every Lebanese a chance to work. This way we will end the economic and social problems of Lebanon," Mr. Hariri said. "We must do a lot for industry in the next 10 years."

He indicated he would maintain a strong currency and said he would not raise personal and corporate tax ceilings.

## Israel to allow imports from Qatar, Oman

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will soon permit imports from Oman and Qatar, which have recently established economic ties with the Jewish state, an Israeli trade official said on Sunday.

Zohar Peri, head of the foreign trade administration at Israel's ministry of industry and trade, said that at a meeting last Thursday representatives of the foreign and trade ministries decided to take Oman and Qatar off the list of countries with which it is prohibited to trade.

"The final authorisation will be given in the coming days and then it will be possible to import goods from the two countries," he told Reuters.

He refused to comment on whether it was possible to export to the two countries.

"Oman and Qatar were on a list of countries from which it was not allowed to import because they had a

boycott on Israel," Mr. Peri said. "But now we have relations with those countries, with economic representatives in both."

Oman and Qatar have forged ahead of other Gulf states in establishing economic relations with Israel though they have stopped short of full diplomatic relations pending the resolution of all Arab-Israeli conflicts.

They are the only two states in the region to have allowed Israel to set up trade missions and Oman has a trade representative in Israel. But Qatar recently said it would delay opening its trade representation in Israel because of the slow progress in the Middle East peace process.

Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Malaysia are among those still on Israel's list of countries from which imports are prohibited, Mr. Peri said.

## Kabariti holds talks with Hussein

(Continued from page 1)

ments and so return the negotiations to square one."

"Just as they (Israelis) have security needs so do we, and also have economic needs and we need to discuss details," he said.

On Jordan's support for the Palestinians in the negotiations, Mr. Hussein said: "Jordan plays an important positive role and (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu has

heard Jordan's strong voice criticising Israel's adamant position."

With regard to the need for an Arab summit to group Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Palestine in case the negotiations with Israel become deadlocked, he said: "Should the negotiators fail to arrive at a solution in the coming days, we feel that we have to contemplate this move. Yes we are in need of an Arab summit meeting."

## KDP likes to delay peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

He said he was in contact with both sides to set an exact date.

Mr. Mirani said the Kurdish agreements concluded last year in Drogheda, Ireland and Paris were no longer valid.

"These agreements were concluded in different circumstances, and I believe we must begin a new stage in the negoti-

ations by taking the developments into consideration," he said. The PUK said the talks should be based on previous agreements.

The KDP extended its grip over most of Iraqi Kurdistan in September after Iraqi troops helped it seize the main city of Erbil, but the PUK recovered some of its lost territory during a counter-offensive this month.



# Arab food imports to peak at \$50b in '96

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Food imports by Arab states are set to jump by more than 40 per cent to a record \$50 billion in 1996 mainly because of higher cereal consumption, a local report has said.

The food imports by the 22-member Arab League, mostly from industrial nations, stood at nearly \$35 billion in 1995, said the report by the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

"Expectations are that the import bill will rise to \$50 billion as Arab states will import more cereals, including 20 million tonnes of wheat," said the report, carried by the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

According to official reports, Arab countries imported between 15 million and 18 million tonnes of wheat annually over the past five years. Imports also cover other cereals as well as meat, food oil, sugar and vegetable.

Arab governments have often come under fire for failing to take measures to ease reliance on imported food. Factors behind such a reliance include inadequate farming policies and lack of agricultural investment.

Only 64 million hectares (160 million acres) of their arable area of 198 million hectares (490 million acres) are exploited.

Low farm production has combined with a rapid population growth to create a permanent food gap in the region. The gap, the difference between imports and exports, has accumulated to nearly \$160 billion since 1980. "Arab states are invited to take measures to ensure social security for their people," the report in Al Khaleej said.

# WTO and UNCTAD call poorest states to trade meeting

GENEVA (R) — The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has announced it was calling a meeting of ministers from the world's 48 poorest countries next month in an apparent effort to promote better trading conditions for them.

The announcement followed a meeting between the WTO's Director-General Renato Ruggiero and Rubens Ricuperio, secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which is helping set up the gathering.

The WTO said the gathering would be held in Geneva from Nov. 13-15.

At a summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial powers in Lyon in June, Mr. Ruggiero called on industrialised countries and richer emerging economies to shape a plan of action on trade concessions to help prevent the 48 sinking deeper into poverty.

He urged the better off members of the 124-state WTO to commit themselves to removing tariffs and lowering other barriers on a range of exports from the poorest, known as the least-developed countries or LDCs.

Although the response has been generally cool, especially from the United States, Mr. Ruggiero has made clear he will press the action plan to try to get agreement formalised at the WTO's first ministerial meeting in Singapore in December.

Last month he returned to the charge when he told the WTO's own committee on trade and development that the global trading community had a duty to prevent further marginalisation of the LDCs, most of whom are in Africa.

And last week he told

UNCTAD's governing board that conditions of poverty in the LDCs were unsustainable in a world "where economic, environmental and demographic problems necessarily have a global effect."

LDCs are defined by the U.N. as countries where the per capita income is less than \$600, a category which includes several Asian countries — like Bangladesh and war-torn Afghanistan — as well as island states in the Pacific.

Total LDC population is more than 550 million.

In 1995, according to UNCTAD, their share of world trade despite efforts to liberalise their economies was less than 0.4 per cent.

And they received only two per cent of the global flow of foreign direct investment (FDI), a major motor of growth.

UNCTAD, now working increasingly closely with the WTO which is not part of the U.N. system, has for years promoted the cause of the LDCs and itself has been focussing debate on their plight at the current meeting of its board.

In Lyon, Mr. Ruggiero argued that apart from working for the removal of all tariffs and non-tariff barriers to LDC goods the richer countries should commit themselves to a programme of improving technical cooperation.

But he also argued that the

investment climate for the poorest states — which traditionally have maintained tough controls over foreign firms — would be improved by a global agreement on investment rules.

This proposal, echoed in a report from the WTO secretariat last week, has brought criticism from both LDCs and more advanced emerging economies who insist they must maintain their powers to steer FDI according to national development policies.

Many Asian and African developing countries argue that discussion of investment issues should be pursued in UNCTAD, and not in the WTO which sets binding rules for all its members.

# IMF loan decision points at Russian economic woes

MOSCOW (AFP) — The decision by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to withhold a multi-million-dollar loan installment to Russia points to a deep-seated malaise in the Russian economy that makes a mockery of recent positive indicators, analysts believe.

The IMF move to hold over the October tranche of a \$10 billion loan until next month reflects deep concern that while the government may be winning the battle against inflation, its economic record in other areas is poor.

With a weak tax collection record, holes in the budget, output figures down for a sixth successive year and a non-payments crisis hitting private enterprises and public sector workers alike, the cash-strapped government has been sucked into in a vicious circle of debt.

To balance its books it needs tax revenues. To collect taxes it must crack down on defaulter enterprises. But in cracking down on its companies, it will further undermine production, reducing its tax base and prospects for economic growth.

"The IMF decision indicates the struggle facing the Russian government," said Sergei Markov, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment think tank in Moscow.

"There are two positions here. On the one hand the government must strive to

collect taxes (for the budget) but on the other hand it must look to help boost production," Mr. Markov told AFP.

Mr. Markov said the IMF-inspired anti-inflationary drive, which is set to reduce inflation to around 20 per cent for 1996, had been pushed through by synthetic means, resulting in a string of knock-on effects in an economy starved of cash.

Clients cannot pay enterprises, who cannot pay each other and hence cannot pay taxes to the government, which in turn cannot balance its budget, settle orders or pay its employees and pensioners.

But while the belt-tightening measures have proved painful, it is the government's poor tax collection record which was primarily responsible for the IMF decision Thursday to withhold the \$340 million disbursement.

In July, the fund also delayed payment of a \$330 million monthly installment mainly because of Russia's insufficient tax receipts.

"Inflation and the budget deficit are under control," the liberal daily Sevodnya said. "But this is just one strand of economic policy ... and (the IMF) is now stressing aspects which it paid less attention to before."

"One of these elements ... is the system of tax collection," the daily said.

Even the powerful presidential chief of staff Anatoly

Chubais admitted recently that while the IMF decision might not necessarily entail financial loss, "we have to cut out this situation in which half of Russian companies do not pay taxes."

Concern that tax evasion has become something of a national sport in Russia has already prompted a personal intervention from the ailing President Boris Yeltsin, who set up a special commission to wage a tax war on defaulters.

The commission has already threatened legal proceedings against four enterprises, and the outlook for other defaulters is not likely to brighten any.

"Another IMF team visits in the middle of November, so taxpayers are heading into a bleak period, facing a head-on collision with the current political campaign," the financial daily Kommersant said.

The dismal economic appraisal could not have come at a worse time for Russia, which is due to embark in November on its first major foreign bond issue since the 1917 revolution to raise much-needed funds to oil the wheels of the strained budget.

The planned Eurobond issue received a boost earlier in October when international agencies gave better-than-expected ratings for Russia's creditworthiness.

A healthy international interest in a first foreign share issue in gas giant Gazprom has also fuelled hopes of greater investor confidence in the Russian economy. But Mr. Chubais and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin know that such indicators are no substitute for money in the bank.

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5188	0.6227	1.2605	113.35	1.3457	1519.85	1.7037	5.1355
DE Mark	0.6584	1.0000	0.4096	0.8295	74.82	0.8857	1000.30	1.1216	3.3812
GB Sterling	1.6058	2.4600	1.0000	2.0204	161.69	1.2609	2440.58	2.7358	8.2466
CHF Franc	0.7933	1.2040	0.4933	1.0000	89.88	1.0667	1204.80	1.3530	4.0709
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3394	0.5488	1.1116	1.0000	1.1867	134.00	1.5024	4.5287
CA Dollar	0.7431	1.1404	0.4659	0.9396	1.19	1.0000	1137.56	1.2784	3.8550
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9987	0.4092	0.0829	1342.82	0.8848	1.0000	11.20	3.3767
NL Guilder	0.5870	89.13	0.3652	73.99	56.49	0.7896	891.83	1.0000	3.0134
FR Franc	0.1947	0.2955	0.1211	24.5309	22.05	0.2619	33.16	33.1600	1.0000

Energy			Mid-East Currencies		
Oil	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM
Brent	25.00	24.95	SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4051
WT Texas	24.70	24.45	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41368
Bony	25.00	24.95	KW Dinar	3.3376	5.07099
Dubai	21.59	21.34	BH Dinar	0.3770	4.03063
UL Gas	226.00	226.00	CY Pound	2.1487	3.2637

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)		
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	1 - 3 - 6 - 9 - 12	1 - 3 - 6 - 9 - 12
Gold (oz's)	382.5	383	USD	5.28	5.43
Silver (oz's)	4.91	4.93	GBP	5.31	5.43
Platinum (oz's)	382	383	JPY	0.37	0.37
AL (3 Months)	1435	1438	DEM	2.98	3.00
CU (3 Months)	2038	2042	CHF	2.93	3.32
Zinc (3 Months)	1045	1050	FRF	1.25	1.38
Lead (3 Months)	738	743	ITL	7.56	7.53
NI (3 Months)	7280	7300			

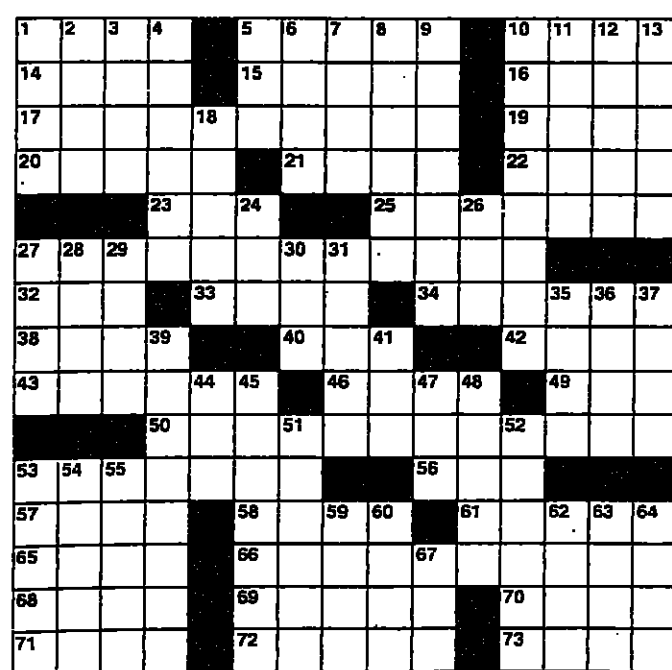
Main Equity Indices			JOD Cross Rates		
Index	Value	Chng	Currency	Buy	Sell
New York	6007.02	14.54	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
DOW JONES	700.92	-1.37	GB Sterling	1.126	1.1417
S&P 500	4022.4	23	DE Mark	0.4858	0.4679
FT-SE 100	20739.97	-263.52	CH Franc	0.5699	0.5837
Nikkei 225	2182.43	10.81	FR Franc	0.1377	0.1384
CAC 40	2674.22	-4.21	JP Yen	0.6237	0.6268
DAX			NL Guilder	0.415	0.4171
			IT Lira	0.4652	0.4675

Energy			JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/bs)	124.83	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1437	Spot	GB Sterling	1.126	1.1417
Sugar (\$/ton)	325	Spot	DE Mark	0.4858	0.4679
Wheat (\$/ton)	165	Spot	CH Franc	0.5699	0.5837
Soya (c/bs)	22.07	Spot	FR Franc	0.1377	0.1384
Tee (\$/bs)	117	Spot	JP Yen	0.6237	0.6268
Barley (\$/bs)	2.3	Spot	NL Guilder	0.415	0.4171
Rice (\$/ton)	470	Spot	IT Lira	0.4652	0.4675

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Offhandedly smooth
  - Phonograph records
  - Cloth ridge
  - Radames' beloved
  - Relative by marriage
  - Surrounded by
  - Actress in "The Natural," 1984
  - Checks
  - Workers' scaffold
  - Muslim VIP
  - Hibernia
  - Lubricate
  - Everlasting
  - "1984" author
  - Furnish with weapons
  - Roll call answer
  - Electron tubes
  - Smile
  - Freudian concept
  - Heraldic border
  - Manor
  - Swiss mountains
  - Neighbor of Miss.
  - 1984 election winner
  - Allure
  - Hockey great
  - A Copperfield
  - Exclamation of resignation
  - Kind of ink
  - Blue-pencil
  - 1984 Oscar winner
  - Shoestrings
  - Cosmetician
  - Lauder
  - Indian
  - Observes
  - Stashes away
  - Connectives



by Stanley B. Whitten

S.P.A.	C.A.P.I.E.	S.E.P.O.Y.
C.A.R.T.	E.V.I.E.N.	E.L.U.D.E.
A.G.I.E.R.	L.I.E.A.F.	L.O.I.R.I.E.N.
M.E.N.I.A.L.	C.R.I.E.E.P.E.R.S.	
S.T.A.M.P.	S.E.I.A.N.C.E.	
M.E.N.U.	N.O.T.	V.A.I.N.
C.A.S.E.	C.R.I.O.I.C.	O.L.I.V.I.E.
R.U.N.I.S.	F.O.R.T.H.E.R.	R.O.I.S.E.S.
O.R.A.T.E.	O.T.I.I.S.	P.A.I.R.T.
W.A.I.G.	S.I.U.	S.E.A.S.
S.Y.A.N.I.C.I.E.	N.I.T.T.E.R.	
H.A.C.I.E.N.D.I.A.	M.A.D.I.A.M.E.	
O.I.G.L.I.E.R.	I.N.I.G.I.E.	E.I.L.O.N.
P.R.O.I.V.E.	N.I.C.I.E.L.	D.O.I.T.E.
S.I.A.T.E.D.	G.E.I.L.T.	N.E.E.

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- DOWN
- Practical jokes
  - Gay song
  - Brainstorm
  - City in Maine
  - 599, to Cato
  - "To Live and Die"
  - Progress with a heavy pace
  - Nut
  - Perspired
  - Crushing defeat
  - With full force, old style
  - Zodiac sign
  - A Ford
  - Whinny
  - Majors or Grant
  - Yale student
  - Security
  - Goofs
  - Leave out
  - Mine find
  - Fit for a king
  - Tow
  - Scat lady
  - Connelly of films
  - Tells a story
  - Aged
  - "Ode — Nightingale"
  - Covers completely
  - Paid athlete
  - Fine line of a letter
  - Finally
  - Perennial herb
  - An Astaire
  - Now
  - Instant
  - Choir voice
  - A lot
  - Actor Bruce
  - "Three Lives"
  - Fruit drinks
  - Affirmative

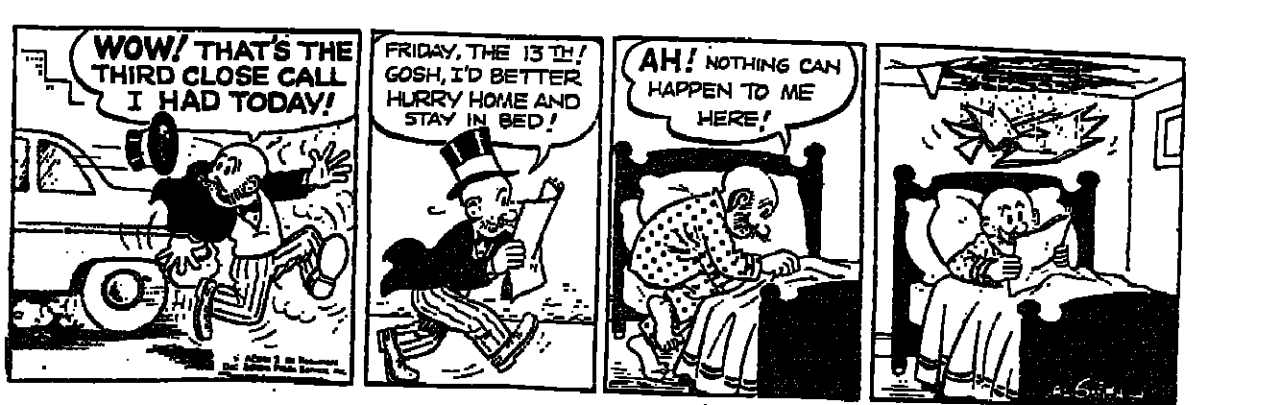
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Go after the personal aims today which mean much to you. Take it easy later tonight and revel in your self-satisfaction and thereby you will discover the success which you have been searching for some time.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) The aspects are fine today for gaining headway in business matter, so make every effort to get ahead. Do not disagree with your mate in the evening or you could find yourself in a great difficulty.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be alert to opportunities around you today and take advantage of them. Plan a little trip with fellow associates which can prove profitable for those involved in the venture and thereby you can make yourself prosperous.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Keep promises made to your mate today over the week-end and do so gracefully so that you are not left high and dry. This evening will be good for you to consult with a knowledgeable person and discuss your options for prosperity.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Situations arise today which can help to take care of fellow association matters. Bring your talents for business to attention of the public and thereby make an impression upon those who can be quite influential to your success.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Find better methods of handling promises you have made today to others and you will diffuse any critical situation. Make sure you don't disagree with your mate or loved ones and thereby eliminate any difficult matters.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Make the appointments with congenial friends today for amusements you want to enjoy in the days ahead. Later this evening you can meet with fellow associates and discuss your options for proceeding with some current project.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get your home neat and clean today so that you can make a good impression upon any guest who may unexpectedly arrive. Have more harmony with a family tie and don't ink your mate so that you eliminate any difficulties.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Make sure that your correspondence with fellow associates and those in authority is handled clearly so that there are no misunderstandings. See modern thinking allies and pick their brains for positive suggestions for the days ahead.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Present conditions are conducive to gaining greater assets and more prosperity in the days ahead. Take the time later this evening to see an expert and gain his or her wisdom for any new projects.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Plan how best to obtain personal wishes you seek at this time. Don't do any favours for someone who is greedy or you could find yourself in quite a dilemma which could present a problem for the days ahead.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get into your future as you plan it carefully and make the best of whatever are your tasks in the days ahead. Do something extra nice for your mate and he or she will be quite receptive to your generosity.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Turmaline.



## Investors prepare to 'spark a renaissance of Palestinian architecture'

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Affluent investors here have launched a development company to produce "high quality projects" in the West Bank and are seeking like-minded "Diaspora Palestinian" partners "to invest their talent and capital in their homeland and to contribute to the re-establishment of a historic nation."

As its first undertaking, the newly formed Tal Es Saba Development Company (TSD) started capital raising operations last week for the implementation of a

JD10 million residential project in Ramallah. TSD founders said.

The project, which envisages the construction of 37 residential units over a period of two years with work starting by the end of 1996, "aims at sparking a renaissance of Palestinian architecture as it was at the turn of the century and in the 1920s," said TSD founder and prominent businessman Zahi Khouri.

According to a TSD private placement memorandum, currently being distributed to "an elite of possible qualified investors" — across the Arab world, from the Gulf to Jordan and

abroad — "the village was designed by a team of specialists in Palestinian architecture" and works will be carried out by the Palestinian Consolidated Contractors Company, based in Athens.

According to Omar Masri, the "second parent" of the project, all of the investors contacted so far have shown "keenness in participating in the project and reactions were very positive."

"This is not a 'mass project'. We are talking to people who believe in Palestine," Mr. Khouri said about his possible partners, adding that "in some cases, [the investors] approached so far by TSD] did not even require seeing the project proposal before accepting."

Refusing to disclose the names of the possible partners, Mr. Khouri and Mr. Masri told the Jordan Times that "six highly qualified and well-known investors"

as well as "some leading financial institutions" have already responded positively to the project proposal.

Tal Es Saba residential area is slated to include a community centre, a bucolic park with a heated swimming pool, a health spa, conference and fitness rooms, stores and cafés.

According to the project memorandum, cross vaults, arches and buttresses will rigorously be built "in the style of typical Palestinian villages and will call to mind the old city of Jerusalem."

Stressing on the "high quality" of the project, "both in terms of information provided to possible investors as well as in terms of building standards," Mr. Masri said "TSD] is not just selling houses, but providing investors with an opportunity to participate in Palestine's economic expansion."

Regardless of the region's

continuous instability which, according to media reports and various local and foreign government sources and statistics, has presumably "scared off" local and foreign investors, TSD's Mr. Masri and Mr. Khouri sound optimistic about the future of their own and similar projects.

Defying current political and economic difficulties in the area, Mr. Khouri stated that "Palestine will always exist and the [peace] process is irreversible."

Saying that "as in the stock market, the general trend is always growth, notwithstanding the ups and downs," he added that the housing and construction sector in the West Bank is booming.

"We are targeting investors who are sophisticated enough to understand the pros and cons of this kind of investment," Mr. Masri said, adding that, "although the project

entails some risks, owing especially to the political situation in the area, rewards are going to be generous."

TSD relies on a number of factors such as the large number of expatriate Palestinians and the lack of publicly financed housing to attract investors in the Tal Es Saba project.

According to the TSD memorandum, investors will be repaid to the extent of capital contributions for their original equity investment, (ranging from a minimum of \$250,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000), within two to three years, "in addition to a preferred return of 6.5 per cent on the outstanding equity."

According to TSD statistics, housing and construction, widely considered the safest of all investments, accounted for 81 per cent of aggregate private investment in the West Bank over the last three decades.

## Egypt, Lebanon and Kuwait sign financial cooperation accord

CAIRO (AFP) — Shares on the Egyptian, Lebanese and Kuwaiti stock markets will be able to be listed and traded on each other's bourses from next year under a new cooperation accord, officials said here.

"The cooperation agreement between the clearance and settlement houses in the three countries is a practical step towards Arab economic cooperation," Abdul Hamid Ibrahim, head of the Egyptian Capital Markets Authority (CMA), told AFP.

The agreement was signed one month after a deal was struck between the three countries to bolster cooperation between their stock exchanges.

"The next step now is that shares and bonds in the three countries can be listed on the stock exchanges of Egypt, Kuwait or Lebanon. This should effectively start from January 1 (1997)," said Mr. Ibrahim.

The agreement comes

ahead of the Nov. 12-14 Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Cairo and is "a clear signal that an effective cooperation between capital markets in the Arab markets is already in practice," he said.

The capitalisation of the Egyptian, Kuwaiti and Lebanese bourses stands at around \$10.5 billion, \$18 billion and \$2.5 billion respectively, according to official figures.

The Egyptian bourse has begun implementing, with the help of France, a central depository system to speed up the process of transactions.

In Lebanon and Kuwait, hit respectively by a 15-year civil war and a devastating Iraqi invasion, the stock exchanges have also been active in a bid to attract foreign investment for the reconstruction effort.

## Kuwait shares constitute 94% of stocks traded in all Arab bourses

KUWAIT (AP) — The value of shares traded at the Kuwait stock exchange since the beginning of the year make about 94 per cent of the value of stocks traded in all Arab bourses in the same period, an official said Sunday.

Hisham Al Otaibi, the general manager of the exchange, told the Kuwait News Agency shares worth around 14 billion dinars changed hands in the first 10 months of the year. He put the current capital value of the exchange at \$14 billion.

Fifty-eight companies are listed on the exchange, including

seven from neighbouring Arab Gulf states. Direct trading is limited to Kuwaitis and nationals of the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Mr. Otaibi said he hoped the market would be open to other investors "in the near future." He did not elaborate.

The Kuwait stock exchange has been breaking record highs due to political stability, confidence in the economy and high liquidity.

## Japanese individuals' foreign currency assets to hit record — report

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's record low interest rates and a weaker yen are prompting Japanese individuals to boost their investment in foreign currencies to a record of 10 trillion yen (\$88.5 billion) this year, a media report has said.

The outflow of individual financial assets — a 70 per cent jump from the previous year — has contributed to the yen's recent depreciation, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The levels of foreign currency-denominated bonds held by individuals is expected to surge by three trillion yen during 1996 to

exceed five trillion yen by the end of the year, the economic daily said, quoting estimates from the Sanwa Research Institute.

Such investments have been spreading not only into bonds denominated in U.S. dollars but also into European currencies and Australian dollars, it said.

According to banking industry data, the outstanding balance of foreign-currency deposits held by individuals came to 4.8 trillion yen at the end of July and is likely to reach 5.5 trillion yen by year-end.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Halaiah outlines JEDCO's plans for coming stage

\*\* JEDCO, the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation, will be implementing a number of projects, in the coming stage, that will have a direct effect on expanding the concept of export development. According to Mohammad Halaiah, JEDCO's director-general, the most important of these projects will be to establish a centre for industrial design to be a reference to the industrial sector. This centre, Dr. Halaiah explained, will assist in developing Jordanian products and designing them in accordance with international specifications and the requirements of the export markets. He pointed out that the corporation has already started to set up some units for this centre.

Another important project in the coming stage is the completion of the Jordan International Fair which will be set up at Marj Al Hamam and which will be the first specialised exhibition hall in Jordan, Dr. Halaiah said. He indicated that another prominent event will be the first International Jordanian Agricultural Fair which will witness wide international participation.

Dr. Halaiah saw the summer of 1997 as being a true opportunity to promote the Kingdom industrially and touristically as Jordan will be hosting the activities of the European-Mediterranean partnership in which more than 500 businessmen from Europe and the Middle East will be participating.

JEDCO will be founding companies specialised in marketing Jordanian products next year, Dr. Halaiah said noting that these companies, in cooperation with the private sector, will be the most effective method to promote and market products abroad. He indicated that the former Soviet republics, which are large markets at present, will be the first experiment for the companies to push Jordanian products there.

The JEDCO chief revealed that 110 Jordanian companies will be participating in the first industrial exhibition in Beirut on Nov. 29, 1996 in implementation of the protocol amounting to JD 5 million. (Al Rai).

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IMCUS  
RIGAN  
CLOIPY  
ENSCOD

Answer: TO THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: PARCH EXTOL MEADOW GALLOW

Answer: The installer's shoddy work got him this — CALLED ON THE CARPET

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUBEISANI											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 27/10/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANS.	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW					JD					
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.42	5	140	34540	249.00	247.00	2.00	-
1.250	880	HTD. EAST INV. BK.	70.3	0.00	11	6000	6420	1.08	1.07	0.01	-
5.250	4.250	THE ROUSING BK.	12.8	2.88	8	3500	16800	4.80	4.80	-	-
3.040	2.550	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	18.8	0.00	3	288	747	2.60	2.60	-	-
1.200	880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.63	9	9300	8412	90	91	0.01	+
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.9	0.00	6	2000	7442	1.75	3.72	0.03	-
3.930	1.530	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	2	10000	14500	1.53	1.45	0.08	-
1.640	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	12	8675	11797	1.37	1.36	0.01	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 189.16 %CHG: -0.62											
3.250	2.800	JORDAN INSURANCE	13.2	5.26	4	2650	7553	2.85	2.85	-	-
2.910	1.970	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.4	10.42	11	10750	20793	1.97	1.92	0.05	-
2.400	1.850	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.9	7.62	1	300	630	2.05	2.10	0.05	+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 118.83 %CHG: -0.02											
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.1	7.50	10	13080	20880	1.60	1.60	-	-
6.950	6.000	WGLS. OWNERS FED.	10.9	5.69	1	150	923	6.15	6.15	-	-
2.800	2.050	SHIPPING LINES	10.5	8.00	2	750	1875	2.50	2.50	-	-
2.050	1.080	MATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	9	3800	1486	1.20	1.19	0.01	-
1.050	880	REAL ESTATE INV.	21.3	2.88	1	21480	20592	91	96	0.05	+
1.260	590	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	33.9	0.00	4	2750	1780	66	66	-	-
2.380	1.630	KID. EAST HOTELS	71.1	0.00	3	1800	2880	1.69	1.65	0.04	-
1.340	960	GARSA EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	4600	4520	2.12	2.13	0.01	+
2.430	1.700	UNITED CO.	9.3	5.68	4	350	916	1.75	1.76	0.01	+
1.200	820	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	2	1000	600	91	90	0.01	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 111.63 %CHG: -0.01											
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.2	2.96	59	36158	121634	3.35	3.38	0.03	+
3.550	2.720	JOR. PROSPERS NINES	33.0	0.00	3	1750	5343	3.10	3.07	0.03	+
5.960	4.780	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.0	3.57	3	2050	11480	5.55	5.60	0.05	+
10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.3	8.67	11	775	12	9.12	9.23	0.10	+
4.870	3.100	ARAB PAPER. WAT.	18.5	8.93	11	3000	10122	3.36	3.37	0.01	-
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	25	19250	4688	62	62	-	-
1.500	1.050	ARAB PAPER COV. TRD.	8.0	8.78	6	1578	1504	1.20	1.18	0.02	-
2.100	1.140	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	17.7	0.00	13	4550	6141	1.38	1.41	0.03	+
1.580	890	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.4	0.00	1	250	225	91	90	0.01	-
2.460	1.750	EC - JAY READY WEAR	7	0.00	23	8465	15746	1.84	1.86	0.02	+
1.490	1.090	INTL. TOBACCO	25.9	0.00	8	3600	3960	1.11	1.10	0.01	-
2.040	1.050	UNION CH. & VER.	24.9	0.00	5	1100	1119	1.06	1.01	0.05	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 111.44 %CHG: +0.42											
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 146.50 %CHG: -0.17											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 27/10/1996											
800	580	JOR. TRADE FAC.	15.5	0.00	8	2600	1308	59	58	0.01	-
940	700	UNION INV. SOT	69.8	0.00	7	16900	3887	74	73	0.01	-
1.110	500	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	5	8250	4125	51	50	0.01	-
1.750	950	AL-DHULFAN SOT	20.3	0.00	1	250	100	95	90	0.05	-
1.750	1.350	WAT. CELARIS	9	0.00	6	4350	4707	1.36	1.36	-	-
700	450	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	4	2000	900	45	45	-	-
1.030	520	MATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	9	8750	4098	62	61	0.02	-
1.100	510	WAT. INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	5	3800	1976	57	52	0.05	-
1.080	760	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	8	15050	11438	76	76	-	-
810	430	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	2	0.00	3	4834	2320	46	46	-	-
850	410	ARAB PAPER. WAT.	9	0.00	2	2200	972	61	61	-	-
850	440	INDS. ENG.	27.7	0.00	17	11400	5130	46	45	0.01	-
1.430	770	INDS. CERAMIC	8	0.00	12	19306	15443	80	80	-	-
890	410	WAT. POULTRY	9	0.00	1	11500	7590	95	95	-	-
950	550	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	63.2	0.00	1	300	270	95	90	0.05	-
1.500	530	HTD. EAST COMPLEX	8.0	0.00	12	15750	10613	68	68	-	-
GRAND TOTAL											
102 124353 74663											

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3 bedrooms in Al Rabia area, third



## Agassi has last chance to return to top eight

PARIS (R) — Andre Agassi's season comes down to the wire in Paris this week.

Either the ninth seed does well enough at the Paris Open starting Monday to pick up the points he needs to qualify for the season-ending ATP Tour World Championship in Hannover next month or he says goodbye until next season.

"I'm coming to win," said the 1994 winner of the Bercy tournament. "But my season ends in Paris if I don't manage to qualify for the masters (former name of the ATP finals)."

Agassi, top of the rankings earlier in the year, is placed ninth in the world rankings and needs to leapfrog eighth-placed South African Wayne Ferreira to qualify for the world championship.

Agassi has been drawn for another clash with top seed Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals, the stage at which his fellow American dealt him a crushing defeat at the Stuttgart open last Friday.

But Agassi feels he is only slightly short of his best form after an enforced lay-off and enjoys Paris.

"I recall playing very well in Paris and I love the crowd. The few matches I've won here have helped my game progress," he said. Agassi was unable to



Andre Agassi

defend his title last year because of injury. In his only other appearance at the Paris Open in 1992 he went out in the first round.

World No. 1 Sampras beat Boris Becker in straight sets in the 1995 final of the tournament first played in 1986 when the

German won the first of his three titles.

Only one of the top 36 players in the world is missing Bercy, the richest tournament on the ATP tour with total prize money of \$2.55 million. Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev has pulled out through injury.

## Ronaldo scores hat-trick as Barcelona stretch lead

MADRID (R) — Barcelona stretched their lead at the top of the Spanish First Division to four points on Saturday thanks to an extraordinary hat-trick from brilliant Brazilian striker Ronaldo in the 3-2 victory over Valencia.

Ronaldo's first came on the quarter-hour after he picked up the ball just outside the area, burst through a gap and kept his balance before beating keeper Zubizarreta with ease.

Portuguese winger Luis Figo set up the second 20 minutes later when he caught Valencia square at the back to set up Ronaldo, who ran 30 metres with the ball and shrugged off a challenge to make it 2-0.

Valencia came out strongly after the break, and pulled one back seven minutes into the second half when Francisco Ferreira headed home a cross by Gabriel Moya.

Six minutes later Valencia drew level when Russian midfielder Valery Karpin finished off some good work down the left by Argentine winger Claudio Lopez.

Ronaldo had missed a golden opportunity to seal the game with the score at 2-1 when he failed to convert a well-weighted cross by Figo.

But he made Amends 16 minutes from time with his best goal of the evening.

Picking up the ball in the centre circle, he brushed aside one challenge, stayed on his feet, despite being sandwiched by two defenders and once again beat Zubizarreta, emphasising his importance to Barcelona's cause.

Second-placed Real Madrid slipped back after a disappointing goalless draw at home to Tenerife.

Their own multi-million mid-season signings strikers Predrag Mijatovic and Davor Suker saw their goal-scoring run broken by a solid Tenerife defence and the woodwork at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

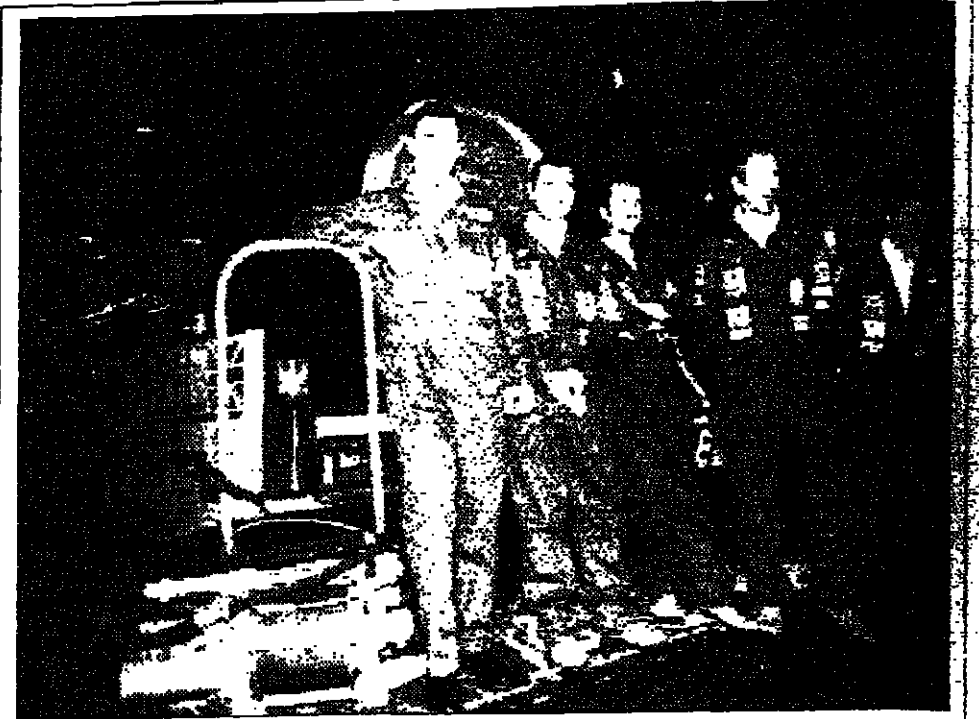
Tenerife also had chances, but Real's German keeper Bodo Illgner proved his worth with some fine saves.

Home fans angry at their team threw objects on to the field at the end of the game. One of the missiles hit Cesar Gomez, but the Tenerife defender was not seriously hurt.

Struggling champions Atletico Madrid returned to winning ways by beating Sporting Gijon 1-0 thanks to a fine goal by Roberto Fresnedoso.

After three successive defeats, the result came as a relief to Atletico, who dominated the game and would have scored several more but for Sporting keeper Juan Carlos Ablanedo.

Another team who have not lived up to expectations this season, Espanyol, upset fourth-placed Real Betis 2-1.



Pilot Andy Green (L) with his team stands in front of the jet propelled Thrust car inside a giant Antonov transport plane at Al Jafra military airport. Britain's jet car Thrust SSC arrived for a planned attempt on the world land speed record (photo by Youssef Allan)

## Thrust SSC to have first run Wednesday

Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AL JAFRA — As Richard Noble, director of the British Thrust Team and holder of the current land speed record stepped from the massive Antonov plane Saturday evening at the Faisal Ben Abdul Aziz air base in Al Jafra, he clasped the hands of several officers and presented a plaque.

"Thank you, Jordan, for everything you have done. Sorry we are three months late," he laughed.

The Thrust jet car is finally here, and the British team has high hopes that it will break the current land speed record of 1019.44 kph and retain their title, as the Americans and the Australians are both racing to win their own title claims.

The American driver, Craig Breedlove, is attempting to win back the title from the British with his jet-powered "Spirit of America" in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada, but rain and high winds last Wednesday prevented Breedlove from attempting any more runs possibly through this weekend.

"Al Jafra is fantastic for our needs, with its strong and hard mud surface, the best in the world for our car," said Andrew Noble, organizer of the event and Richard's younger brother.

"The Thrust jet car weighs nine and a half tonnes, and should be able to accelerate quickly on that surface," he added.

Andrew Greene, a Royal Airforce fighter pilot, beat out hundreds for his position as the Thrust pilot.



A photographer aims his camera down the desert track at Al Jafra where Thrust will be attempting to break the world land speed record (photo by Youssef Allan)

"Greene was the quickest, calmest, and most relaxed of all the candidates," said Andrew Noble.

When Greene was asked if he had any safety concerns, he expressed that he felt safe as the unique car was equipped with two computers that would automatically shut down the engine if it detected any problems.

The team hopes to begin running the car this Wednesday at five a.m., depending on the winds, and then gradually build the speed up to at least 1050 kph to break our current record, said Andrew Noble.

"We are racing the Americans, but with their current weather, and the hopeful continuity of dry weather here, we are extremely confident that we will prevail," added Andrew.

According to Greene, this project is only the beginning of an intense research programme to actually break the speed of sound, reaching supersonic speeds with the Thrust jet car sometime in 1997.

"It would be ideal to attempt this here, but unfortunately the Al Jafra track is only 16.4 km, and we need a track of at least 20 to 25 km to break the super sonic record," he added.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### ANY CARD CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Both vulnerable South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ A Q 8 7  
♥ A J  
♦ Q 6 4 3  
♣ 9 8 4  
WEST  
♠ J  
♥ 9 8 7 2  
♦ J 7  
♣ Q J 10 8 5 2  
EAST  
♠ 10 9 6 5 4  
♥ 6 5 4 3  
♦ 10 9 5 2  
♣ Void

The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
2NT Pass 3NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.  
South, declarer, at six no trump, was a little careless at the very first trick. That slight oversight proved expensive indeed.  
North added 13 points to South's announced 21-22, came up with enough for a small slam and bid it immediately. It would have been wiser to probe for a 4-4 spade fit en route but, since there wasn't one, the final contract would have been the same.

Under the Patronage of  
Her Royal Highness  
Princess Sarvath Al Hassan  
the Embassy of Italy and the Ministry of Culture  
present  
the 11th Italian Film Week in Jordan  
22 - 29 October 1996  
at the Main Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre

#### PROGRAMME

- |   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| 1) Sostiene Pereira (Pereira Holds)                             | 22/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Roberto Faenza  | 23/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 2) Regalo di Natale (Christmas Present)                         | 23/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Pupi Avati  | 24/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 3) Romanzo di un giovane povero (The Story of a Poor Young Man) | 24/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Ettore Scola  | 25/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 4) Una storia semplice (A Simple Story)                         | 26/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Emidio Greco  | 27/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 5) Per grazia ricevuta (For Favours Received)                   | 27/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Nino Manfredi   | 28/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 6) Nemici d'infanzia (Childhood Enemies)                        | 28/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
|   | 29/10 | 5:00 p.m. |

All films are Italian with subtitle in English. Entrance ticket is JD 1 for adults and 500 fils for students. All proceeds will go to the Centre for Special Education of the Young Muslim Women's Association.

## Arsenal make most of bizarre day

LONDON (AFP) — George Graham admitted that his return to Arsenal, the club that sacked him, was a "nightmare" after his struggling Leeds side crashed 3-0 to his old club who climbed back to the top of the English Premiership.

Graham's young side came unstuck against the experienced but ageing Arsenal team he helped build.

But he was not the only top manager in despair after an extraordinary day in results.

Previous pacesetters Newcastle, without injured Alan Shearer, slumped 2-0 at Leicester and champions Manchester United, thrashed 5-0 by Newcastle last week, were hit for six at Southampton. They also had midfielder Roy Keane sent off.

Graham was given a rousing reception from the Arsenal fans who still idolize him for winning six trophies in eight years before he was sacked over

claims that he took financial backhanders.

Manchester United Alex Ferguson managed to keep his composure after watching his 10-man side suffer their first six-goal drubbing in 16 years at the hands of Graeme Souness' Southampton.

Norwegian Egil Olsenstad, a recent signing from Viking Stavanger, snapped up a hat-trick as United, who did at least manage three goals of their own, were made to suffer for the dismissal of Keane for his second bookable offence.

Chelsea boss Ruud Gullit dedicated his team's 3-1 victory over London rivals Tottenham to the memory of charismatic vice-chairman Matthew Harding who was killed in a helicopter crash on Tuesday.

"It was good that everybody in the stadium participated in the day and I would like to thank the Tottenham supporters for our club," said the Dutchman.

"Today wasn't about playing a football match for three points. It was about going out there and winning it for him, and he would have liked it."

Manager Kevin Keegan said Newcastle must cope without England captain Alan Shearer — who could be out for two months after a groin operation — or forget about winning the title.

After his side's 2-0 defeat at lowly Leicester, he said: "You're bound to miss Alan Shearer because he's a world class player. But if we're going to lose three points every time because we've lost one player we can't pretend we're going to win the championship."

Blackburn, under the caretaker management of Tony Parkes following Ray Harford's resignation, remain rooted to the bottom after suffering their seventh defeat of the season — 2-1 at West Ham.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson denied claims of a dressing room rift at the club and a bust-up with transfer-listed England star Nick Barmby after his side's 0-0 draw with high-flying Wimbledon.

### Q1) What defines a Spanish Restaurant ?

A1) The Menu - The Food

The Music - The Atmosphere  
& The Spirit of Spain

### Q2) Who defines a Spanish Restaurant ?

A2)

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4th floor, Gardens Str., Amman, Jordan.

## PSV stay top

AMSTERDAM (R) — PSV Eindhoven scored the biggest win of the Dutch first division season Saturday, thrashing Roda JC Kerkrade 8-0 to stay on top of the table.

In a perfect dress rehearsal for Thursday's Cup Winners Cup tie against Brann Bergen of Norway, 2-1 winners in the first leg, the Roda defence was under pressure from the start.

Second-place Feyenoord remain one point behind, courtesy of an injury-time penalty which edged out Utrecht 2-1.

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Philadelphia 1  
Tom Cruise ... in  
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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Philadelphia 2  
SABRINA

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:899238  
PLAZA

Ahmad Zaki & Yusra...in  
WHIMS  
(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420  
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"  
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL  
Shows: 3:30, 8:30  
THE SCARLET LETTER  
Shows: 12:30, 6:15, 10:30

CONCORD "2"  
NASER 56

Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45

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Starring comedians:  
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At 8:30 p.m.

For reservation please call  
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The three top finishers in the Breeder's Cup Classic are shown after they crossed the line in a photo finish at the 1996 Breeder's Cup Classic in Toronto. Alphabet Soup (C) finished first, Louis Quatorze (R) came second and Cigar (L) was third (Reuters photo)

## Cigar bid fails in Breeders' Cup

TORONTO (AFP) — Alphabet Soup spelled the end of Cigar's bid to win an unprecedented second straight Breeders' Cup classic here Saturday.

The 19-1 shot survived a furious four-horse stretch run to win the \$4 million classic, giving jockey Chris McCarron his third win in North America's richest race.

Alphabet Soup, trained by David Hofmans, moved on the outside at the top of the stretch and fought off Preakness winner Louis Quatorze, who finished second and Cigar, who settled for third.

Cigar, winner of 17 of his previous 19 races, including a record-equalling streak of 16 in a row, may have run his last race, although owner Allen Paulson was reluctant to confirm future plans.

Although Cigar's defeat disappointed a legion of fans at Woodbine racetrack, the first non-U.S. course to host the Breeders' Cup, the seven races worth \$11 million produced a wealth of emotional victories.

Britain's Walter Swinburn, who was nearly killed in a race at Sha Tin in February, claimed his first Breeders' Cup victory in his 18th attempt, capturing the \$2 million 1 1/2-mile

turf aboard Pilsudski. "I can't tell you what it means," said Swinburn, who struggled to control his emotions in the winner's circle.

Trainer Michael Stoute noted that it was a bitter-sweet win for owner Lord Weinstock, whose son Simon died of cancer this year.

Pilsudski led a European sweep in the turf, ahead of two Sheikh Mohammed-owned horses, Singpiel and Swain.

Singpiel took the lead from diplomatic jet at the mile marker of the 1 1/2-mile race before being chased down by Pilsudski.

European entries were also favoured in the \$1 million mile on turf, but it was European expertise on behalf of an American horse that won it.

U.S.-bred Da Hoss, trained by former English champion Jump Trainer Michael Dickinson, passed tiring pace setter Kiradashi just past the top of the stretch and held off French hope spinning world to win by 1 1/2 lengths. Same Old Wish was third.

Jockey Gary Stevens said Dickinson's preparations were crucial to the victory on a track affected by heavy rain earlier in the week. Stevens said the turf had

held up well, but Frankie Dettori, who finished seventh on Irish favorite Mark of Esteem, thought otherwise.

Cory Nakatani, who had never ridden a Breeders' Cup winner, rode two: Lit De Justice in the six-furlong sprint and Jewell Princess in the distaff.

The 26-year-old Californian dedicated both races to his sister, Dawn, who was killed earlier this month by an assailant who is still being sought.

"I've got an angel on my side and her name is Dawn," Nakatani said after taking Jewell Princess, trained by his father-in-law Wally Dollase, to victory over Serena's Song and favorite Different in the 1 1/8-mile distaff.

Lit De Justice in the sprint made Jenine Sahadi the first woman trainer to win a Breeders' Cup race.

And in the 1 1/16-mile Juvenile Fillies, Storm Song, ridden by Craig Perret, gave trainer Nick Zito his first Breeders' Cup win in 12 outings. She passed the front-running love that Jazz to win by 4 1/2 lengths.

The 1 1/16 mile juvenile for 2-year-old colts was won by D. Wayne Lukas-trained Boston Harbor.

## Yankees clinch 92nd World Series

NEW YORK (AFP) — When it came down to the heart of the matter, "heart" was all that mattered.

The New York Yankees beat Atlanta 3-2 here Saturday to win the 92nd World Series, capturing their first North American baseball crown since 1978 by taking the best-of-seven championship four games to two.

The Yankees became the first team to open with two home losses and recover to sweep the next four series games. They were pounded 12-1 and 4-0 here but won three in a row in Atlanta and the finale at Yankee Stadium.

"Tonight was the most enjoyable night of my life," said Yankee manager Joe Torre, who spent 34 years as a player and manager before his World Series debut this year.

"We haven't been intimidated by anybody all year long. We have a lot of heart and we never gave up," said Torre, whose brother Frank received a heart transplant Friday that doctors said was needed to save his life.

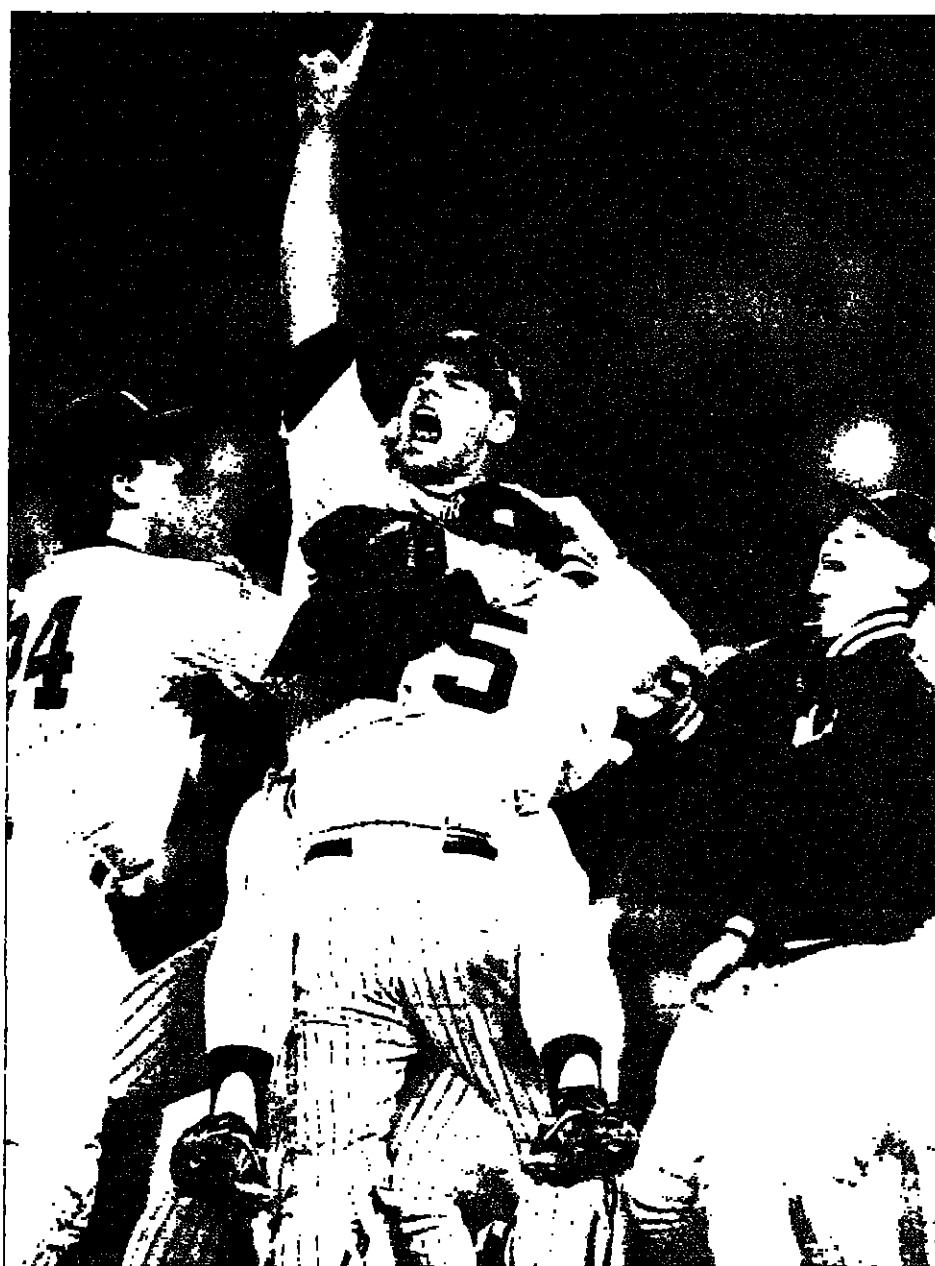
"We could have packed it in when we went to Atlanta," Yankee third baseman Wade Boggs said. "But our hearts are as big as the (World Trade Center) twin towers right now. This is the greatest feeling in the world."

The Yankees have baseball's most expensive payroll at \$66.6 million, including the game's highest-paid relief pitcher in John Wetteland, who took series most valuable player honours with a record four saves.

"It takes more than paying players a lot of money and just sending them out there," losing pitcher Greg Maddux said. "It takes heart and the Yankees have it."

Wetteland surrendered three singles in the ninth inning, including a run-scoring hit by Marquis Grissom. But when third baseman Charlie Hayes gloved a Mark Lemke pop up for the final out, a crowd of 56,375 at Yankee Stadium yelled with joy.

"Both teams played their hearts out," Atlanta's Ryan Klesko said. "We couldn't get the big hit or the big play when we needed to. You have got to give them credit. They played fantastic baseball."



New York Yankees reliever John Wetteland celebrates as he is lifted by catcher Joe Girardi, after the Yankees won the game 3-2 and win the World Series against the Atlanta Braves in Game Six. Wetteland, who saved all four of the Yankee victories, was named the Most Valuable Player (Reuters photo)

Wetteland, who saved all four of the Yankee victories, was named the Most Valuable Player (Reuters photo)

Wetteland, who saved all four of the Yankee victories, was named the Most Valuable Player (Reuters photo)

Wetteland, who saved all four of the Yankee victories, was named the Most Valuable Player (Reuters photo)

New York's Joe Girardi tripled home Paul O'Neill, scored on a single by Derek Jeter and watched Bernie Williams single home Jeter in a three-run third inning that produced all the scoring the Yankees needed.

Winning pitcher Jimmy Key frustrated Brave batters, and Yankee relievers Graeme Lloyd, David Weathers and Mariano Rivera allowed no hits over 2 2/3 innings.

Lloyd induced an inning-ending pop out by Ryan

Klesko to kill an Atlanta threat in the sixth inning and Rivera followed with two hitless innings.

"We had a lot of determination. The whole post-season, the bullpen was fantastic," said Lloyd, who shared champagne and posed for pictures with friends in a mob-scene locker room.

Lloyd was booed by fans when he first came from

Milwaukee, two months ago. He struggled with poor efforts due to bone chips in his elbow that will require off-season surgery.

"It feels a lot better to be cheered," Lloyd said. "I feel like so many weights are coming off me. I was hurt, but I was never down."

Amid all that has happened, I did my job and that's what I wanted to do."

The Yankees, in the series for the first time in 15 years, won New York's 60th team sports title. The Braves, who won Atlanta's first sport crown in 1995, failed to defend, losing the series for the third time since 1991.

"Not a good day," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said. "You can't look back at it. I would never expect we would lose four in a row."

The Yankees' 23rd all-time title matched ice hockey's Montreal Canadiens for the greatest number of championships by one club in a North American team sport. No other baseball club has more than nine titles.

New York batted .216 for the series, the worst hitting by a champion in 13 years. Atlanta's pitchers wasted a 2.33 earned-run average, the lowest by a series loser in 23 years.

The Braves ended a streak of 17 consecutive scoreless innings in the fourth when key forced home a run by issuing a bases-loaded walk to Jermaine Dye. Atlanta had not scored since taking a 6-0 lead in the fifth inning of game four, which the Braves lost 8-6 in 10 innings.

Atlanta manager Bobby Cox was ejected by umpire Tim Welke for protesting a fifth-inning call, becoming only the sixth manager ejected from a World Series game, the first since 1985.

Welke was the same umpire who prevented Dye from reaching a ball for a likely fly out earlier in the series.

## Becker outlasts Sampras to take Stuttgart crown

STUTTGART (AFP) — Boris Becker fought for nearly three hours to complete a dream scenario and deny Pete Sampras a fourth straight tournament title with a tight 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory Sunday at the Eurocard Open.

World No. 1 Sampras, who had not lost a match since last August, was broken in the fifth set of the struggle, saving three break points before Becker executed a perfect pass for a fourth chance, then angled over a backhand winner deep to the Sampras forehead corner for a 2-1 lead.

The German held onto his hard-won advantage and set up his second win in three weeks, seven games later, collecting two match point chances with a serve winner and needing only one thanks to a timely ace.

Becker collected \$330,300 as well as 370 ATP Tour computer ranking points and took a giant step towards qualifying for next month's world championship in Hanover, where he is one of six men chasing three remaining places.

The victory gives the 28-year-old German a 6-10 career mark against Sampras, who had won 21 matches in a row and had not been beaten indoors all year.

Becker proved that his wrist injury from Wimbledon is well behind him as he won his second indoor title in a row after Vienna this month. He also took 1996 trophies at the Australian Open and Queens.

Paris results, as well as possibly those at the

Stockholm Open the week of Nov. 4 will be critical to closing out the elite, eight-man championships field, which already includes Sampras. Michael Chang, Thomas Muster, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Goran Ivanisevic. Sampras had been seeking his 44th career singles title. Becker heads the American with 48 crowns since 1984.

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## PNA bars Israeli goods in retaliatory move

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority banned Sunday the entry of Israeli food products into the Gaza Strip in protest against Israel's seal of its borders with Palestinian areas.

Palestinian Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh declared the ban during a protest by dozens of Palestinian farmers at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The farmers threw large quantities of fruits and vegetables, mostly guavas, on the ground across the border from Israeli soldiers, witnesses said.

Mr. Saleh said the Palestinian ban was a response to Israel's blocking of Palestinian products crossing the border for export into Israel, the West Bank and Jordan.

"Freedom of trade and transport must be protected," Mr. Saleh told the demonstrators.

Israel sealed its border with the Palestinian territories Thursday, blocking the movement of agricultural products from Gaza and idling 50,000



Palestinians throw their produce from a truck in protest of the Israeli closure at Beit Hanoun crossing on Sunday (Reuters photo)

Palestinians with jobs in Israel. "We contacted the Israelis to ask them to allow Palestinian products but they insist on preventing the entry of cargo trucks from Gaza to the West Bank, claiming security precautions even though

the trucks are escorted by Israeli police," Palestinian Deputy Agriculture Minister Ala Abu Qarish told AFP. The agricultural minister said losses in Palestinian agricultural products due to the closure amounted to "more than half a

million dollars a day." Israel exports a total of \$400 million worth of goods to the Gaza Strip a year and \$600 million worth to the West Bank, mostly in industrial products, an Israeli trade ministry spokesman said.

## De Charette rejects British criticism of Chirac's tour

PARIS (AFP) — The French foreign minister rounded on his British counterpart in an interview published here Sunday, saying Malcolm Rifkind's criticism of a French presidential tour of the Middle East was "unwarranted."

Herve de Charette told the Journal du Dimanche weekly that President Jacques Chirac had carried off a "formidable feat" with his high-profile week-long tour which ended on Friday.

"In a region where we were somewhat absent, France has mobilised strong goodwill. Today these countries are looking to us," Mr. De Charette said.

He regretted that Chirac's initiative had not been supported by all European Union members and he criticised Mr. Rifkind who said "competition of influence" in the Middle East between Europeans and Americans was "of little benefit for the peace process."

Mr. Rifkind said that in diplomacy, each country "often follows its cultural national characteristics."

"Our involvement may be slightly less romantic, slightly less colourful, slightly less dramatic than that of others, but it may actually be able to make a more positive contribution to the result," Mr. Rifkind

said, in an implied criticism of Chirac's style.

"Mr. Rifkind's remarks seemed to me to be particularly unwarranted. They are doubtless inspired by the old jealousy between Britain and France," Mr. De Charette said.

Referring to Mr. Chirac's angry reaction in East Jerusalem when he was hemmed in by Israeli security personnel, Mr. De Charette said the "very excessive" presence of Israeli security forces had disrupted the visit to holy places "in a zone of Jerusalem which in international law does not belong to Israel."

"What is really important is Franco-Israeli relations. Over the years, I have found that we have had difficulty understanding one another. But it is clear that France has been a friend of Israel since its founding. We have always made the security of the Israeli state and its population a priority. There is no doubt about that. There cannot be disagreement between friendly governments."

"I attach great importance to this message of friendship being understood in Israel," Mr. De Charette told the paper.

He said it was "perfectly normal" for Mr. Chirac to

have begun his tour in Syria because Damascus "holds one of the keys to the peace process."

Mr. De Charette also spoke out in favour of greater European influence in the Middle East. The European Union "cannot turn its back on a situation like this and it cannot agree to pay without participating. This is what President Chirac insisted on. He wants France and Europe to be acknowledged as full partners," Mr. De Charette said.

Mr. Chirac returned home on Saturday after visiting Syria, Israel, Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

Welcomed as a hero in Arab countries he met scepticism in Israel that Europe could join in the U.S. peace efforts.

Mr. De Charette said he would brief European Union colleagues on the trip at their Monday meeting in Luxembourg, and Mr. Chirac has already written to the EU leaders about his tour.

He repeated that the EU, as the main contributor of aid to Palestinians must play a role in the peace process.

"Europe cannot accept that it is to pay without taking part," he said.

## Released French diplomat abducted again

SANAA (AFP) — A French diplomat freed by his kidnappers was taken hostage again hours later by members of the same tribe Sunday while being driven to the Yemeni capital, diplomats said.

Serge Lefevre, an embassy attaché, had been released Saturday night after his abduction a week ago in the capital, Sanaa, by members of the influential Jihm tribe.

He spent the night in Maarib, where he was brought by the kidnappers, before being taken by road back to Sanaa, 180 kilometres to the west.

This time the Jihm tribesmen intercepted Mr. Lefevre's convoy, which included a police escort, halfway between the capital and Maarib.

The tribesmen also grabbed three of the original kidnappers who had been turned over to police.

The second kidnapping occurred in spite of the presence of tribal leaders who had acted as mediators.

"We're back to square one," a diplomat said. He added that this was a "complete embarrassment" for the authorities because they had announced Lefevre's release Saturday night, and it was in all the Yemeni newspapers Sunday. The French embassy made no comment, although hours earlier a diplomat said, "we still haven't seen the person in question get to Sanaa, but we are hopeful."

Mr. Lefevre had barely been in Sanaa one month when he was abducted Oct. 20.

Maarib province Governor Abdul Wali Al Shumiri told AFP after Mr. Lefevre's release Saturday night, "the diplomat is in good health. He was handed over to the tribal mediators to whom the three kidnappers also gave themselves up."

The Jihm tribe initially seized Mr. Lefevre in order to pressure the government to pay compensation for houses destroyed during floods in January. The tribe was also demanding a bigger share of administrative posts and sought to press its case in a land dispute with the central government.

But Mr. Shumiri said that under pressure from the authorities, the kidnappers had dropped all claims except a demand for a guarantee that they would not face prosecution if they released Mr. Lefevre and that fellow tribesmen implicated in the kidnapping of a U.S. diplomat three years ago would be pardoned.

## Anti-Taleban forces in air and ground attacks

TOUTAKHON, Afghanistan (Agencies) — Anti-Taleban forces resumed their major offensive on a key pass leading to Kabul Sunday, as senior military officers loyal to northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum dismissed Taleban claims of military gains.

Fighting at the Deh Sabz Pass, 25 kilometres northeast of the capital, started at 6:00 a.m. (0130 GMT) Sunday, said commander Said Akbar, an officer in the ex-government forces led by Ahmad Shah Masood.

The pass lies on the strategically crucial new road which runs north from Kabul. Three hours later, intense artillery, rocket and tank fire toward Taleban positions could still be heard.

In Kabul, residents of the shattered capital awoke to the thud of bombs and staccato bursts of anti-aircraft fire mixed with the wailing sound of Koran recitations.

The early morning bombing raids that coincided with the dawn prayers of devout Muslims followed at least two bombing raids late on Saturday.

Anti-Taleban forces arrayed north of Kabul said the fighter jets belonged to General Dostum.

The Taleban retaliated with a bombing raid north of the capital on Jalal os-Saraj, the headquarters of Mr. Masood.

One Taleban bomb smashed into a home on the edge of Jalal os-Saraj that left several people wounded, including a 60-year-old

women who was returning home when the bomb hit.

"What have I done... Let them fight their own war," said Ghulam Nabi returning home with a handful of grapes for the wounded woman who lay on a blanket waiting for treatment.

"Why are they bringing it into my house?" he asked. "Why are they bringing it into my house?"

In Kabul, one of the bombs hit a park leaving a four-metre crater. The concussion shattered windows and left metal awnings twisted.

Residents in the area swept away the glass. Some removed a tree, which the bomb had split to use as firewood. Black-turbaned Taleban fighters, carrying assault rifles, surveyed the damage.

A second bomb hit the combined military and civilian airport on the northwestern edge of the city, witnesses said.

The airport is still open and just one hour after the anti-aircraft fire ended a domestic aircraft landed.

The Taleban army of former religious students control roughly two-thirds of Afghanistan and say they are extending their rule in parts of western Afghanistan previously run by Gen. Dostum.

However, Gen. Dostum's spokesman in northern Mazar-e-Sharif, denied the claim saying two strategic northwestern Afghan provinces of Badghis and Faryab remained in Gen. Dostum's control.

"It's not true that the

Taleban have control of Badghis province," said a spokesman known only as Gen. Yousef.

He said Gen. Dostum's soldiers battled the Taleban, who briefly took control of the Badghis provincial capital, but were later ousted.

"The capital is firmly in Dostum's hands," he said.

And north of Kabul, where the major frontline is located, there were reports that the anti-Taleban alliance launched a fresh wave of fighting around Hussein Kot, about 20 kilometres north of the capital.

Mr. Masood's spokesman, Dr. Abdullah, said they had taken control of some key hills overlooking the capital. That claim could not be independently confirmed.

Since the Taleban entered Kabul on Sept. 27 most of the fighting has been waged north of Kabul, where troops commanded by the anti-Taleban alliance are dug in.

Gen. Dostum commands the second largest fighting force after the Taleban. His soldiers, many of whom are former conscripts in the communist army, are well-armed and well-trained.

They have a reputation for ferocious fighting.

Gen. Dostum's fleet of two dozen aircraft is probably greater than the Taleban.

Mr. Masood also is believed to have four jets that he removed from the military air base at Bagram, 50 kilometres north of Kabul before the Taleban invaded last month.

## 6 said held for Dhahran blast

DUBAI (AFP) — The Saudi authorities have arrested three Saudis and three Shiite Muslim Arabs suspected of carrying out a truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen in the city of Dhahran in June, western diplomats said Sunday.

The three Saudis, two Kuwaitis and a Lebanese man were arrested in August and the authorities were expected to disclose their identities in the next few weeks after they complete their investigation, the diplomats said.

At least some of the six suspects fought in the war in Afghanistan, said the diplomats who were interviewed by telephone from Dubai and asked to remain anonymous. They did not say whether the three Saudis were also Shiite Muslims.

Saudi officials have said they have questioned people about the bombing but have not announced any arrests.

The Kuwaiti authorities helped Saudi Arabia arrest the two Kuwaiti suspects and Yemen was also involved in the investigation after some of the suspects took refuge there, the diplomats said.

Arab diplomats said the Yemeni authorities recently handed over an unspecified number of Saudis who had served in Afghanistan.

A truck bomb killed 19 U.S. airmen and wounded hundreds of other people when it exploded June 25 outside a military dormitory at King Abdul Aziz Air Base in the eastern Gulf coast city of Dhahran.

U.S. military officials said the bomb estimated at around 2,270 kilograms of explosives was so powerful it must have been the work of an international terrorist organisation rather than Saudi dissidents.

U.S. embassy officials in Saudi Arabia would not say Tuesday whether the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which conducted the investigation with the Saudi authorities, has been allowed to interview the suspects.

The FBI had complained it had not been allowed to question four militants who were beheaded in May for a car bombing that killed five Americans and two Indians at a U.S. army training centre in Riyadh on Nov. 13.

All four were Saudis, including three who had received military training in Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia encouraged its citizens to fight a "holy war" in Afghanistan after the 1979

invasion by the former Soviet Union.

Both the June and November bombings were claimed by militant groups demanding the departure of U.S. troops from the kingdom.

In the wake of the bombings, the 6,000 U.S. and allied military personnel in Saudi Arabia have moved to more secure facilities in the kingdom, while security has been boosted around other U.S. military installations in the Gulf.

In August, Saudi opposition members in London said that six Saudi militants had confessed to the bombing. Saudi officials in Washington denied this and other reports of arrests, but said many people were being questioned.

Saudi Shiite Muslim opposition groups in exile in the last few months have alleged hundreds of their minority community, including religious leaders, were being detained in Saudi Arabia.

Last week a London-based group calling itself the Observatory of the Islamic Press accused the Yemeni authorities of having handed over former Afghan fighters to Saudi Arabia.

## 10 Jordan opposition parties visit Syria today to 'express solidarity'

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing opposition groups leaves for Damascus today on a visit that head of the delegation, Yaqub Zayyadin, said aims at expressing solidarity with Syria in its stalemated talks with Israel and looking into the possibilities of holding a meeting in Syria of Arab groups opposed to the normalisation of relations with the Jewish state.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the pro-Iraq Jordanian Socialist Arab Baath parties are among the 10 opposition groups that will take part in the visit, which also aims at discussing means of improving inter-Arab relations, especially the strained Syrian-Iraqi ties and ways of standing up to "American and Zionist policies designed to

having Arab people surrender to their designs."

Dr. Zayyadin, secretary general of the Communist Party and president of the higher coordination committee of the opposition groups, told the Jordan Times that he did not expect the visit to provoke the controversy that a similar mission last year had sparked.

In January 1995, eight opposition groups participated in a visit to Syria and members of the delegation appeared on Syrian television criticising the Kingdom for signing the peace treaty with Israel.

That incurred the opposition the wrath of centrists political parties and the government, which threatened to take the opposition parties to court on charges of violating the political parties law. The law bans parties from having financial and organisational ties

with foreign countries or groups.

The controversy ended when then-Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad held a meeting with the 23 registered parties in the Kingdom and stressed that no party will be allowed to violate the law. The opposition groups explained then that their position was "misrepresented."

"This time, Jordanian-Syrian relations are better," said Dr. Zayyadin, who explained that members of the delegation had agreed that they will not criticise Jordan during the visit.

"The delegation will not discuss Jordanian issues and Syria. We discuss Jordanian issues in Jordan," Dr. Zayyadin said.

A government official told the Jordan Times that the



## Circumciser sued for \$2 million for bad cut

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jewish circumciser who cut a little too deep on an Israeli baby has been sued for \$2 million in damages by the child's parents, the daily Yediot Aharonot reported Sunday. The parents said the circumciser, in an operation five years ago, miscut while removing the baby's foreskin and cut off the top third of his penis, the paper said. The parents rushed their child to hospital to attempt a graft, but it failed. They are suing the circumciser in a court in Haifa, north of Tel Aviv, for negligence resulting in "deep psychological damage." Under Jewish tradition, boys are circumcised eight days after their birth, usually by a "mohel," a professional religious circumciser. Many secular families have the operation performed in hospital.

## Drug-inspired Lennon drawings unearthed

LONDON (R) — The man who introduced John Lennon to Yoko Ono is reported to have found a collection of drug-fuelled drawings done by the late Beatle, star on a "magical mystery tour" to an Irish island he wanted to buy. The drawings, discovered by singer Marianne Faithfull's former husband John Dunbar, could be worth up to £100,000 (\$160,000), auction experts say. Mr. Dunbar, speaking to the Sunday Telegraph, said he discovered the drawings inside a jester he took on a trip to Ireland with Lennon in the late sixties. "I cannot believe it — most of John's drawings are frightful," Mr. Dunbar told the paper. Dunbar said they went to Ireland after spotting an advertisement offering the tiny island of Domish Beg off the west coast for sale at just £1,000 (\$1,500). He said the two had taken the drug LSD. "I had taken it first as early as 1963 whereas John had only recently started so I think he was probably more affected by it," he added. "When we got there, John sat down and started drawing." Mr. Dunbar told the paper, Lennon shot dead outside his New York apartment in 1980, bought the island but eventually gave it away.

## Police and firemen for hire

LONDON (AFP) — Police, firemen and even fire engines can be hired by the hour to do various jobs for private citizens, the Sunday Times reported. A whole series of "non essential services" can be rendered by uniformed officers who want to boost their earnings. They can be hired to ensure order at parties, guard homes or even empty a swimming pool, the paper said. Essex Police in south eastern England admitted that its officers could be hired for £35.40 (about \$55) an hour. "If a member of the public wanted to hire a policeman to watch his house overnight, there is a provision to do that but at a price. Each case is looked at on its own merits," said Maureen Boreham, spokeswoman for the South Yorkshire Force in the north-east. The same practice goes on in West Yorkshire where officers have patrolled streets round pubs after being paid to do so by local house owners. They operate at an average rate of £35 (\$54) an hour. In the same way firemen are prepared to hire themselves or their material out. A private citizens is thus able to hire for £173 (\$268) a fire engine and its driver. The same fire brigade charges £70 (\$108) to help someone locked out of their home "except in an emergency." The Police Federation has expressed concern at the trend. "We understand why forces might want to generate extra income. But an officer joins the police to serve the community, not someone who can afford to hire him," the deputy president of the federation Sir Westwood was quoted as saying.

(Continued on page 7)